64th Legislature

1	SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11
2	INTRODUCED BY M. PHILLIPS
3	
4	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5	MONTANA REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE
6	CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION RECONSIDER THE APPROPRIATENESS OF
7	LISTING BRUCELLA ABORTUS AS A BIOTERRORIST AGENT TO FACILITATE RESEARCH INTO THE
8	TRANSMISSION OF THE PATHOGEN TO CATTLE, AND DOMESTIC BISON, AND WILDLIFE.
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10	WHEREAS, Brucella abortus is listed as a potential bioterrorist agent or "select agent" by the United
11	States Department of Agriculture and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and
12	WHEREAS, while other strains of Brucella are highly pathogenic, Brucella abortus rarely infects humans
13	and is easily treated; and
14	WHEREAS, Yellowstone National Park harbors a reservoir of the Brucella abortus pathogen in elk and
15	bison, and as long as this reservoir exists, final eradication of brucellosis is impossible in Montana, Idaho, and
16	Wyoming because elk and bison can continually reinfect the region's cattle and domestic bison each time the
17	disease is controlled; and
18	WHEREAS, in order to eradicate Brucella abortus in Yellowstone National Park AND THE SURROUNDING
19	AREA, a vaccine must be developed that is effective for cattle and domestic bison, but because research on select
20	agents is highly regulated and requires costly investments in secure infrastructure, the number of facilities that
21	are able to perform research on the pathogen in large animals has been greatly reduced; and
22	WHEREAS, although the Brucella abortus pathogen is prevalent and highly problematic outside
23	laboratory doors, because of the select agent listing it cannot be brought inside for the studies that could lead to
24	an effective vaccine, which is an absurd situation for veterinary research facilities in the region.
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26	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
27	STATE OF MONTANA:
28	That the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the
29	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
30	(1) reconsider the appropriateness of listing Brucella abortus as a select agent;

64th Legislature

(2) focus bioterrorism regulations on the Brucella pathogens that pose the greatest risk to humans; and
(3) facilitate research into the transmission of the pathogen to cattle, and domestic bison, AND WILDLIFE
by promoting research to develop an efficacious vaccine and delivery system.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the directors
of the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Centers for

- 6 Disease Control and Prevention and to the Montana Congressional Delegation.
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