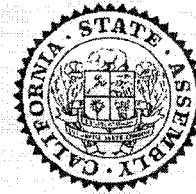




California Legislature



To: Members of the Legislature

From: Assemblyman Travis Allen and Assemblymember Richard Bloom

Date: March 3, 2016

RE: Co-Author Request for AB 1552

Bipartisan Legislation to Ensure that California Does Not Support Companies that Engage in Boycotts Against Israel

Dear Colleague:

As you are no doubt aware, businesses are being increasingly asked to participate in economic boycotts intended to inflict financial harm on, or otherwise limit commercial relations, based on nationality discrimination. Any effort to inflict economic harm upon California's trading partners weakens California's ability to conduct business and harm the vital economic and employment interests of the state. Further, California strongly opposes discrimination.

No group better demonstrates this fact than the Boycott, Sanctions and Divestment Movement (BDS), whose use of false, demonizing and delegitimizing propaganda against the State of Israel has become a pretext for the expression of anti-Jewish bigotry. Since taking shape in 2001, when non-governmental organizations and activists prompted by the Palestinian Authority hijacked a United Nations conference on racism, the BDS movement has sought to convince others to attack Israel and its partners through economic, political and cultural means. It should be noted that Israel and California enjoy a special trading and commerce relationship based upon the MOU signed in 2014.

In May, South Carolina became the first state in the country to pass legislation defending against commercial discrimination and boycotts on the basis of national origin, which includes Israel. In June, Illinois followed suit with its own legislative approach to combat the issue. These two states – and many others will soon pass similar legislation – acted both to defend their economic interests and to reinforce their protections against discrimination and bigotry.

AB 1552 will ensure that California does not contract with companies that participate in malicious boycotts against Israel. AB 1552 reinforces California's trading priorities and ensures that our relationships with supportive countries are not undermined by companies here and abroad.

California must defend its economic interests and strengthen its protections against discrimination in all its forms, especially in light of recent global events. This legislation ensures that California will not support businesses that actively seek to undermine our mutually beneficial trading relationships based on prejudice.

Please join in this bi-partisan effort by co-authoring AB 1552 to express California's unwavering commitment to support Israel and fight economic discrimination against them. Please return to Stephanie Freedman (Allen) in Room 4015, or Anthony Molina (Bloom) in Room 2003, by hard copy delivery, or through e-mail.

Sincerely,

TRAVIS ALLEN
Assemblyman
72nd Assembly District

RICHARD BLOOM
Assemblyman
50th Assembly District

☐ YES, I would like to Co-Author AB 1552

Print Name

Signature