



America's Pro-Israel Lobby

Dear Congressmen Roskam and Vargas,

We write in strong support of the bipartisan legislation you have authored to address the international boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign against Israel.

This bill, H.R.825, builds on strong precedent. Congress has previously been involved in combatting foreign boycotts against Israel, both through statute and the successful leveraging of free trade negotiations. Previously, Congress has primarily focused on the Arab League Boycott; today's challenge lies primarily in Europe, where governments have led efforts to boycott Israel commercially, divest from it financially and threaten sanctions both against Israel and companies that operate there.

These efforts are clearly designed to delegitimize Israel, isolate her politically, weaken her economically and stigmatize trade with her. They impair Israeli security and ultimately inhibit the prospects for Israeli-Palestinian peace.

The U.S.-Israel Trade & Commercial Enhancement Act will work to thwart these efforts. It will send a strong message to the European Union that the United States will not countenance boycotts of Israel. The bill will seek to condition ongoing U.S.-EU free trade negotiations on the European Union's complete cessation of state-sponsored efforts to harm Israel.

The bill contains many other important provisions. It will require administration reporting on an array of boycott activities, require foreign companies traded on American exchanges to disclose any boycott of Israel, and protect American companies performing routine, legal, business in Israel. Of equal importance, your bill focuses on the benefits of a strong U.S.-Israel commercial relationship. We strongly believe that the best antidote to divestment is investment. Your bill opposes delegitimization through legitimization of our Israeli ally.

We strongly support your efforts in developing this important initiative which will help further build our alliance with Israel and maintain Israel's long term stability and strength.

Sincerely,

Brad Gordon

Director, Policy & Government Affairs

Marvin Feuer

Director, Policy & Government Affairs

