

The Honorable Peter J. Roskam
2246 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20024

April 9, 2015

Dear Congressman Roskam:

Congratulations on co-sponsoring the bi-partisan Israel Trade and Commercial Enhancement Act (H.R. 825). The United States has continuously stood in absolute opposition to similar attempts to delegitimize and destroy Israel. Congressional action that strengthens the U.S.-Israel economic relationship and counters both states and companies that attempt to isolate Israel from global commerce through the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement is not only necessary but essential.

This bipartisan bill would counter the BDS movement against Israel and strengthen the U.S.-Israel economic relationship. The United States and Israel have much to gain through economic cooperation.

Such a legislative initiative, which discourages potential U.S. trade partners from levying economic penalties aimed at Israel and requires foreign companies, traded on the U.S. stock exchange, to declare if they've engaged in boycotts against Israel, uses the economic influence of the United States for noble and just purposes. Defending the State of Israel on every platform on which it is discriminated appeals to the vast majority of Americans, who do not support hateful and counterproductive efforts aimed at isolating the only beacon of freedom and liberty in the Middle East.

Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) said, "We will succeed if we strongly and constantly oppose those who call for boycotts of Israel and expose their double standard."

Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) said, "When you have a boycott, divestment and sanctions movement you're discriminating against Israel, and the United States should take a stance to make sure other countries that want trade agreements with the United States do not participate in BDS against Israel."

Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) declared about the BDS movement, "We must fight back against any and all efforts to delegitimize the Israeli state, the Jewish people, and the Jewish religion."

The Israel Project (TIP) is a non-partisan American educational organization dedicated to informing the media and public conversation about Israel and the Middle East. The BDS movement prevents the public from obtaining accurate information and perpetuates conflict by opposing the path to peace through dialogue.

We commend Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA) and you for your work on this bipartisan bill.

Sincerely,



Josh Block
President and CEO
The Israel Project

Josh Block
CEO & President

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