

Dear Legislator:

On behalf of the undersigned community leaders in Alaska, we are writing to ask that you support HB 2 (Israel Anti-Discrimination Act), legislation aimed at ensuring that our state's taxpayer dollars do not subsidize the effort to Boycott, Divest from and Sanction (BDS) Israel. Thirty-four states across the country have advanced policies that curb investment in or contracting with entities that engage in a boycott of Israel. Our hope is that Alaska becomes the 35th.

Over the past five years, this legislation has enjoyed widespread bipartisan support, but Israel's detractors have sought to malign these efforts. As such, I'd like to address some of the potential concerns and false arguments associated with this legislation.

First, this legislation does not prohibit boycotts of Israel. In fact, Palestine Legal, a leading voice in opposition to such anti-BDS laws, acknowledges that "none of the anti-boycott bills and laws take away your right to boycott for Palestinian rights or to advocate for such boycotts."

Second, this legislation will not impact Alaska's investments, as it exclusively relates to Alaska's contracts. Likewise, this legislation will not impact Alaska's oil industry as any restrictions on contracting with those engaged in international boycotts associated with that industry are already written into federal law, specifically, the Anti-Boycott Act of 2018 and Part II of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018. The legislation in question is limited to prohibiting the state from engaging in contracts worth more than \$100,000 with potential contractors (with at least 10 employees) who are engaged in a commercial boycott of Israel or refuse to commit to refraining from doing so for the duration of the contract.

Third, while there have been a handful of nuisance lawsuits aimed at such legislation, none have been successful. Those circumstances in which courts have taken issue with the law are a result of the law being misapplied or the language in the bill having not been as clear as it could have been. The only appellate level decision about the constitutionality of BDS laws upheld them, and most recently the US Supreme Court denied cert to an appeal dealing with the Arkansas case from the 8th circuit. Likewise, many important constitutional scholars agree that these laws are constitutional.

Finally, this legislation takes no position on final status issues. In fact, nowhere in the bill does it mention the disputed territories associated with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

The proposed bill simply ensures our taxpayer dollars are not subsidizing an antisemitic effort to achieve with boycotts what terrorists have failed to achieve with bombs: the destruction of the State of Israel. From a legal perspective, this is no different from prioritizing veterans in the hiring process or minority-owned businesses in state contracting.

While this legislation therefore empowers Alaskans and allows them to best decide how their taxpayer dollars are spent, detractors of this legislation are not so inclined. In fact, their leaders have acknowledged openly and repeatedly that their sole aim is to destroy Israel.

The Jewish people are the indigenous people of the land of Israel. Though many foreign powers conquered the Holy Land and treated it as a prize to be won, for thousands of years there has been an uninterrupted Jewish presence in the land where King David reigned.

Alaska may seem far removed from what takes place in the Middle East, but as a state we strive to do the right thing and to protect our interests. Israel and Alaska enjoy an important and mutually beneficial relationship. Since 1996, Alaska's exports to Israel total nearly \$62 million.

In addition, Alaska is a key site for U.S.-Israel missile defense cooperation. The U.S. and Israel regularly test cooperative missile defense programs such as the Arrow-3 at the Alaska Aerospace Pacific Spaceport Complex on Kodiak.

Standing with Israel and defending the Jewish people's right to self-determination in their ancestral homeland is, therefore, not only righteous but also in our state and national interest.

We hope you will support HB 2 and help put Alaska on record in both word and deed against the BDS movement targeting Israel. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

1. David Gottstein - President of Dynamic Capital Management; Alaska Chair of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).
2. Rev. Gary Morton - Lead Pastor Anchorage First Assembly of God, Anchorage, Christians United For Israel (CUFI) Region One Director & CUFI Alaska State Coordinator
3. Steve Zelener - CEO Zelener Group Anchorage, AK
4. Edna Devries - Matanuska-Susitna Borough Mayor
5. Lindsay Knight - Vice Chair of Alaska Aerospace and Owner of Kodiak Athletic Club
6. John Whiddon - Kodiak City Council Member
7. Dr. Paula Colescott - Internal Medicine Specialist
8. Mike Baker - President Alaska Sleep Centers - Anchorage, AK
9. Loran Baxter - Anchorage, AK
10. Gary Hass - Anchorage, AK
11. Hilda Hass - Anchorage, AK
12. Candy Sunderland - Sunderland Ranch, Palmer, AK
13. Rev. Greg Newell - Homer Assembly of God, Homer, AK
14. Rev. Steven Brown - Lead Pastor Kenai New Life Assembly, Kenai, AK
15. Rev. Mike Rose - Lead Pastor Juneau Christian Center, Juneau, AK
16. Rev. Brad Lowery - Executive Pastor Anchorage First Assembly of God, Anchorage, AK
17. Rev. Alice Morton - Pastor, Palmer, AK
18. Rev. Clarence Goward II - Missions Pastor Anchorage First Assembly of God, Anchorage, AK
19. Rev. Shannon Panthin - Lead Pastor Ocean's United Church - Kodiak, AK
20. Rev. J. R. Markel Lead Pastor - Iñupiat Assembly of God Church, Utqiagvik, AK
21. Rev. Jon Watson Peninsula Christian Center, Soldotna, AK
22. Rev. Moyce Polanco - Pastor de la Iglesia de Dios Betel, Anchorage, AK
23. Milton Michener - Pastor Summit Worship Center Wasilla, Ak.

24. Rev. Rona Lopizich - Chaplain Highland Mountain Correctional Center, Anchorage, AK
25. Rev. Roy William (Bill) Welch - Superintendent Alaska Assemblies of God, Anchorage, AK
26. Alaska District Council of the Assemblies of God Presbytery Board - Anchorage, AK
27. John Martin - Elder Anchorage First Assembly of God, Anchorage, AK
28. Rev. Randell Jones - Lead Pastor Gate Way Fellowship, Chugiak, AK
29. Rev. Glenn Ratcliff - Pastor Calvary Community Church if God In Christ, Anchorage, AK
30. Maria C Tyree - Wasilla, AK
31. Kristine Gugel - Chugiak, AK
32. Linda Hendrickson - Chugiak-Eagle River, AK
33. Cynthia Raymond - Anchorage, AK
34. Nancy Homstad. - Palmer, AK
35. Sally M. Pollen - Palmer, AK
36. Mary E. Ravetta - Wasilla, AK
37. Kristi Merces - Wasilla, AK
38. Ronald Huckstep - Wasilla, AK
39. Lynn Hallford - Palmer, AK
40. Martha Kincaid - Palmer, AK
41. Chuck Kaucic - Palmer, AK
42. Gerald Gugel - Chugiak, AK
43. Jessyca Durham - Eagle River, AK
44. Randy Durham - Palmer, AK
45. Candus J. Miller - Wasilla, AK
46. Janet Johnson - Anchorage, AK
47. Karen Crandall - Big Lake, AK
48. Cynthia Burdge - Wasilla, AK
49. John Miller – Wasilla, AK
50. Eric & CJ Koan – Wasilla, AK