HOUSE RESOLUTION ON TRADE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

2018 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ken Ivory

===

LONG TITLE

General Description:

  This resolution of the House of Representatives addresses trade relations with the State of Israel.

Highlighted Provisions:

  This resolution:

  ‣ opposes boycott, divestment, or sanctions movements in any form against the State of Israel;

  ‣ encourages promoting and strengthening trade relations between the business communities of Utah and Israel; and

  ‣ encourages activities related to trade with Israel.

Special Clauses:

  None

===

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the state of Utah:

  WHEREAS, the State of Israel is the most prominent target of nationally discriminatory boycott activity, which began even before Israel's declaration of independence as the reestablished national state of the Jewish people, with the Arab League Boycott adopted in 1945;

  WHEREAS, companies that refuse to deal with U.S. trade partners such as Israel, and do so for discriminatory reasons on the basis of national origin, impair those companies' commercial soundness;

  WHEREAS, it is the public policy of the United States, as enshrined in several federal

30   acts, to oppose boycotts against Israel, and Congress has concluded as a matter of national trade

31   policy that cooperation with Israel materially benefits U.S. companies and improves American

32   competitiveness;

33   WHEREAS, Israel is known for its dynamic and innovative approach in many business

34   sectors, and therefore a company's decision to discriminate against Israel, Israeli entities, or

35   entities that do business with or in Israel is an unsound business practice;

36   WHEREAS, the 1985 United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement was the first free

37   trade agreement entered into by the United States and continues to serve as the foundation for

38   expanding trade and investment between the United States and Israel by reducing barriers and

39   promoting regulatory transparency;

40   WHEREAS, since signing the United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement, U.S.-Israel

41   trade has grown eight-fold and nearly all trade tariffs have been removed, resulting in U.S.

42   goods and services trade with Israel totaling $46 billion in 2013;

43   WHEREAS, Israel is an important trading partner for Utah;

44   WHEREAS, some of Utah's top exports to Israel include computer and electronic

45   products, machinery, and transportation equipment; and

46   WHEREAS, Israel is a global center for hi-tech design and research and development,

47   and could offer opportunities for collaboration between Israeli companies and Utah's Silicon

48   Slopes companies:

49   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the

50   state of Utah strongly opposes any form of boycott, divestment, or sanctions movements that

51   promote forms of boycott against the State of Israel.

52   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives is dedicated to

53   promoting and strengthening trade relations between the business communities of Utah and

54   Israel.

55   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives encourages activities

56   for the promotion of trade and export, initiating and maintaining trade agreements for the

57   improvement of Israel's, Utah's, and the United States' trade conditions, attracting and

58   encouraging foreign investments, and creating strategic cooperation with foreign companies.

59   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives encourages foreign

60   investment in Utah companies and identifying Israeli companies that are open to cultivating a

61   U.S. presence.