

For Immediate Release

July 22, 2021

## **Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar's Statement on Recent Activities, Statements made by Ben & Jerry's and Unilever**

**(AUSTIN)** — Following recent developments, I've directed my staff to determine whether any specific action has been taken by Ben & Jerry's or Unilever that would trigger a listing under Chapter 808 of the Texas Government Code.

If it is determined that Ben & Jerry's or Unilever has engaged in any activities proscribed under Chapter 808 of the Texas Government Code, my office will take all appropriate and required actions consistent with our policies and procedures. Texas Government Code Chapter 808 defines "boycott Israel" as "refusing to deal with, terminating business activities with, or otherwise taking any action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on or limit commercial relations specifically with Israel or with a person or entity doing business in Israel or an Israeli-controlled territory."

As with any of our listing decisions, my office, in cooperation with our research providers, will carefully review statements and activities made by Ben & Jerry's and Unilever to establish if either entity is a suitable candidate for the Texas list.

Texans have made it very clear that they stand with Israel and its people. We are against all those wishing to undermine Israel's economy and its people. I wish to thank Representative Phil King for his ongoing support of these efforts. My office has a long history of supporting Israel through our bond holdings and the Comptroller's list of scrutinized companies with ties to Iran, as well as those with ties to foreign terrorist organizations.

It is worth noting that thankfully Texans have much better options for a sweet treat this summer. Blue Bell was founded in Brenham, Texas and tastes much better than the overpriced, stuck-up stuff made by a foreign-owned company started in Vermont.