

Dianne Lob
Chair

William C. Daroff
Chief Executive Officer

Malcolm Hoenlein
Vice Chair



CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS
of Major American Jewish Organizations

July 22, 2021

Governor Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott,

We are writing as allies and members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the umbrella organization of fifty-three national Jewish organizations that span the political and religious spectrum of American Jewry. We supported and continue to support the implementation of anti-BDS laws across the country.

We are concerned about the recent decision of Ben & Jerry's, a subsidiary of Unilever, a publicly traded company, to cease the distribution of its product to Israelis and Palestinians in land Ben & Jerry's describes as 'Occupied Palestinian Territory.' This decision was pushed by BDS activists and Ben & Jerry's Board members, who are now stating that Ben & Jerry's did not go far enough by not boycotting all of Israel, demonstrating that some who push these boycotts are not guided by concern over 'disputed' territory, but rather seek any excuse to demonize the State of Israel.

As you know, the ultimate goal of the BDS Movement is to end Israel's existence as a Jewish state. They do not seek peace in the Middle East, but rather wish to destroy Israel through economic warfare.

Thirty-three states, including yours, have taken action through legislation or executive orders, against companies that boycott Israel for political purposes, recognizing that boycotts of Israel are discriminatory and further inflame the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and national origin discrimination.

We respectfully urge you to call on the State Board of Administration, pension fund manager, or other appropriate department, pursuant to state law, to determine whether Unilever, should be included on the list of "Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel," in which state funds cannot be invested. If the state invests in Unilever we ask that you take immediate action to divest. Additionally, we ask you to determine whether the state has any contracts with Unilever and its subsidiaries that may be in violation of the state anti-BDS law.

We would appreciate if you made a public statement announcing your intention to examine whether Unilever is in violation of your state law.

Alpha Epsilon Pi
Ameinu
America-Israel Friendship League
American Friends of Likud
American Israel Public
Affairs Committee
American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee
American Sephardi Federation
American Zionist Movement
Americans for Peace Now
AMIT
Anti-Defamation League
ARZA
B'nai B'rith International
Bnai Zion
CAMERA
Central Conference of American
Rabbis
Development Corporation for Israel/
State of Israel Bonds
Emanah of America
Friends of the Israel Defense Forces
Greater Miami Jewish Federation
Hadassah, Women's Zionist
Organization of America
HIAS
Hillel International
JCC Association of North America
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Federations of North America
Jewish Institute for National Security of
America
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan
Chicago
Jewish Women International
Mercaz USA,
Zionist Organization of the
Conservative Movement
NA'AMAT USA
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Young Israel
NCSEJ - National Coalition Supporting
Eurasian Jewry
ORT America, Inc.
Rabbinical Assembly
Rabbinical Council of America
Religious Zionists of America
UJA-Federation of New York
Union for Reform Judaism
Union of Orthodox Jewish
Congregations of America
United Synagogue of Conservative

Judaism
WIZO
Women of Reform Judaism
Women's League for Conservative
Judaism
Workers Circle
World ORT USA
World Zionist Executive, USA
Zionist Organization of America

Please advise us of the status of the review as well as any final determinations that are made.
We welcome the opportunity to serve as a resource in this process, as appropriate.

Sincerely,



William C. Daroff
CEO
Conference of Presidents



David Harris
CEO
American Jewish Committee



Daniel Mariaschin
CEO
B'nai B'rith International



Pastor John Hagee
Founder and National Chairman
Christians United for Israel



Rhoda Smolow
National President
Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America



633 Third Avenue • New York, NY 10017 • 212.318.6111 • Fax 212.644.4135
www.conferenceofpresidents.org | info@conferenceofpresidents.org