

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 25, 2021

Mr. Alan Jope
Chief Executive Officer, Unilever PLC
Unilever House
100 Victoria Embankment
London, UK EC4Y 0DY

Dear Mr. Jope:

I write to express my deep disappointment with Ben & Jerry's recent decision to not do business in the West Bank, and therefore end its current relationship with its licensee which manufactures Ben & Jerry's ice cream in Israel and distributes it in the region. I would sincerely hope that Ben & Jerry's, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Unilever, will reconsider this wrong and misguided decision to fuel efforts to single-out and undermine Israel, and will promptly reverse course.

I strongly support a negotiated, two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resulting in the democratic, Jewish state of Israel living peacefully alongside a viable, democratic Palestinian state. However, I believe that Ben & Jerry's recent decision sends the completely wrong message. As Unilever has acknowledged, the "Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a very complex and sensitive situation," and it will not be solved by businesses like Ben & Jerry's participating in one-sided, political boycotts. This and other efforts including the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement do not promote peace; rather, they single out one side of the conflict for blame while encouraging the other side to reject direct negotiations in favor of a unilateral strategy.

While I am glad that Unilever has affirmed it is committed to its presence in Israel, I hope that you understand the harmful consequences of such a misguided, disappointing decision, and reverse course by continuing to do business without yielding to anti-Israel political pressure.

Sincerely,



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress