

May 14, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500

Resolution Supporting One of Our Closest Allies and Defending the Foundational Underpinnings of Our Great Nation

- Whereas Israel is one of the United States' closest democratic allies, and serves as a beacon of light in a region plagued by authoritarian regimes and a source of hope by revealing the power of free-market principles;
- Whereas Israel, like other democracies, has the right to live in peace and security and both the right and the obligation to defend itself and its people from terrorism and other acts of force a non-negotiable prerequisite for maintaining a strong and stable economy;
- Whereas Hamas' founding charter disgracefully calls for the annihilation of the Jewish people and the destruction of Israel;
- Whereas Hamas' barbaric mass murder, mutilation, rape and kidnapping of civilians in Israel including women, children and the elderly on October 7, 2023, unquestionably constitute crimes against humanity under international law that must be condemned unequivocally and on the strongest terms;
- Whereas Hamas and Hezbollah, both of which are designated by the United States as terrorist organizations, continue their incessant rocket attacks on Israeli civilians, also in clear violation of international law:
- Whereas numerous international human rights organizations have been apathetic in the face of atrocities committed against Jews and have failed to make even minimal efforts to visit the hostages that remain in terrorist hands, and women's organizations have similarly

been conspicuously silent in the face of the horrific sexual assaults committed against Jewish women;

Whereas it has become clear that the network of unregulated entities that has been hijacking our country's corporations in the name of "ESG" to advance their own ideological objectives outside the democratic process are fueled by anti-West, anti-capitalist motivations and also have strong antisemitic and/or anti-Israel biases, sometimes pushing openly for the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement, the antisemitic movement that seeks to delegitimize Israel as the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people;

Whereas the October 7th massacre has exposed pockets of unabashed antisemitism in the United States, including on the campuses of once-venerated universities, as demonstrated by countless acts and threats against Jewish students, accounts of hateful statements made by professors charged with educating the next generation, and the shocking Congressional testimony of three presidents of prominent universities and most recently the shocking protests at a prominent New York University;

Whereas the recent attacks on Israel perpetuated by Iran and their allies in the region indicate a continued clear and present danger to Israel's national security;

Whereas ratings agencies Moodys and Standard and Poors (S&P) have recently downgraded Israel's credit score, citing a negative outlook on Israel's economy,

Resolved, that we, financial officers of our respective states the State Financial Officers Foundation (SFOF) and its members, the state financial officers of their respective states:

- 1. reaffirm our commitment and support for Israel;
- 2. are optimistic on the future of the Israel's vibrant, innovative and diverse economy;
- 3. will continue to invest in Israel bonds, in accordance with state law;
- 4. will continue to oppose the BDS movement, including by not investing in entities that partake in the BDS movement and by ensuring that the financial research and ratings that our respective states rely upon is based on sound financial principles rather than BDS movement tactics meant to isolate Israel in the world economy and breed prejudice against the Jewish people;
- 5. to the greatest extent possible, in accordance with state law, will not invest in entities that convey antisemitic sentiments or that contribute to non-profit organizations that are openly antisemitic;
- 6. will not vote for and will not tolerate our states' asset managers voting for ESG-oriented shareholder proposals that advance the BDS movement, anti-Israel proposals or proposals which undermines traditional American values;
- 7. will continue our vigilance and take action, as necessary and appropriate, with respect to capital markets participants companies, asset managers, proxy advisors, shareholder

- proponents, ESG raters and rankers and others that advance anti-Israel biases, anti-capitalist ideas and/or exhibit antisemitism;
- 8. will use our authority, as appropriate and applicable, to address the anti-West cancer that has infected the educational institutions within our states; and
- 9. otherwise dedicate ourselves, within the powers bestowed to us by our respective states, to stemming the tide of the anti-West infiltration of our valued institutions and protecting our democratic way of life, and urge our fellow state financial officers to do the same.

Sincerely,

Alabama Auditor Andrew Sorrell

Alaska Commissioner of Revenue Adam Crum

Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee

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lorida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis

Idaho Treasurer Julie Ellsworth

Arkansas Auditor Dennis Milligan

Indiana Comptroller Elise Nieshalla

Indiana Treasurer Dan Elliott

Kansas Treasurer Steven Johnson

Kentucky Auditor Allison Ball

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Louisiana Treasurer John Fleming

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Missouri State Auditor Scott Fitzpatrick

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Nebraska Auditor Mike Foley

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Nevada Contr	oller Ar	ndy Matthews	

North Carolina Treasurer Dale Folwell

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North Dakota Treasurer Thomas Beadle

Molub Mague
Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague

Oklahoma Auditor & Inspector Cindy Byrd

Oklahoma Treasurer Todd Russ

Pennsylvania Treasurer Stacy Garrity

South Carolina Treasurer Curtis Loftis

South Dakota Auditor Richard Sattgast

Utah Auditor John Dougall

West Virginia Treasurer Riley Moore

South Dakota Treasurer Josh Haeder

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