

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 9, 2015

Ms. Federica Mogherini  
High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/  
Vice-President of the European Commission (HRVP)  
Delegation of the European Union to the United States  
Suite 800  
2175 K Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037

Dear High Representative Mogherini,

We write to express our concern over reports that the European Union (EU) intends to move forward with new guidelines to label certain products made by Israeli companies imported into the EU. In April, more than half of the foreign ministers of EU member states sent a letter encouraging you to proceed with this policy, and members of the EU Parliament subsequently voted to endorse this initiative in September. As allies, elected representatives of the American people, and strong supporters of Israel, we urge you not to implement this labeling policy, which appears intended to discourage Europeans from purchasing these products and promote a de-facto boycott of Israel, a key ally and the only true democracy in the Middle East. We believe strongly that these efforts are unwarranted, dangerous, and damaging to the prospects of a negotiated solution to this conflict.

We are also deeply concerned that enacting this policy would lead to the broader boycott of Israel. For decades, it has been the policy of the United States to oppose economic boycotts by other countries against Israel. In the 1970s, the United States Congress enacted legislation making it illegal for a U.S. company to comply with the Arab League boycott of Israel. This year, Congress has passed Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation requiring the United States to discourage Europe from enacting any politically motivated policies that would boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel when negotiating the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. Differentiating between products made by Israeli companies creates a troubling precedent that could eventually lead to the type of activities that the TPA provisions aim to address.

At a time of significant instability in the region, it is deeply concerning to us that the EU is considering a proposal intended to impose more diplomatic and economic pressure on Israel. The proposed labeling guidelines play into the narrative of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanction (BDS) movement, which is an effort to delegitimize Israel rather than promote a resolution of outstanding issues between Israel and the Palestinians. Far from advancing such a resolution, the proposed labeling would prejudge the outcome of future negotiations.

We call upon you not to adopt the proposed labeling guidelines. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Ted Cruz  
United States Senator



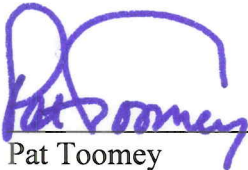
Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

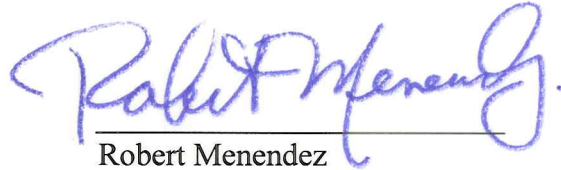
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

Mark Kirk  
United States Senator



Pat Toomey  
United States Senator

Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator

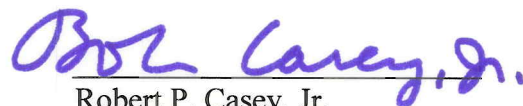


Thom Tillis  
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

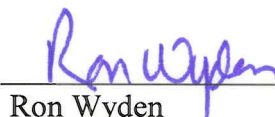


Steve Daines  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



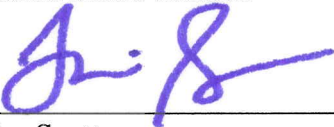
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

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Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator

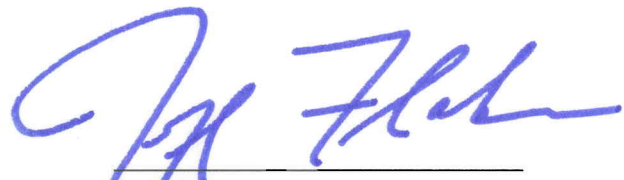
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Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator



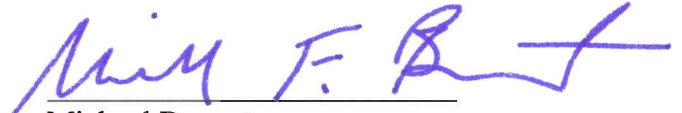
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Tim Scott  
United States Senator



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Jeff Flake  
United States Senator



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Michael Bennet  
United States Senator



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Jeff Sessions  
United States Senator