



Dear Chairperson:

My name is Gunay Evinch. I am a member of the Turkish American community and Co-Chair the Turkish American National Steering Committee, which represents the broadest diversity of Turkish Americans nationwide, including observant Muslims as well as secular Turks as my self.

I support HB 0949 as a timely and important preemptive response to the discriminatory and destructive policy of BDS. We Turks can empathize with Israel, because often Turkey is the victim of racist legislation, in terms of frequency, falsity, and derogatory tone. The pattern of BDS demonstrates prejudice against Israel.

1. Economically, BDS reduces the supply of goods and services, and forces prices to unaffordable levels, causing severe economic discrepancies and civil strife. BDS is not good for either side of a conflict or controversy.

3. BDS generalizes a criminal conviction upon an entire population for the alleged wrongdoings of a part of the population or a foreign government. It repels moderate thinkers who feel their country is being targeted, or who feel they must now defend their own existence. In this respect, BDS is racist especially when such punitive policies are implemented selectively, or unequally, upon countries, excepting offenders who are far worse than the targeted country.

4. BDS is federally preempted, because it is not the foreign policy of the United States to implement punitive BDS measures against Israel. An Maryland anti-BDS bill would not only harmonize with federal foreign policy, as it should and is required under the Constitution, but it would be supportive of federal foreign policy regarding Israel, which is a productive use of state rights.

5. Israel is an important partner for progress in a very difficult part of the world. It is a partner of the United States, of Turkey, and all countries who want sustainable peace and prosperity in the Middle East. We Turkish Americans

February 27, 2017
Page 2 of 2

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recognize and respect the right of Israel to exist, and the human and civil rights of Palestinians either as citizens of Israel or citizens in a two-state solution.

Thank you for your consideration

Respectfully,

Gunay Evinch
Co-Chairman

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Page 2 of 2

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