

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



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



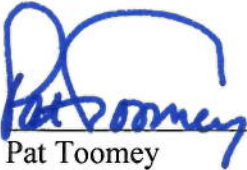
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Mark Kirk
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Pat Toomey
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



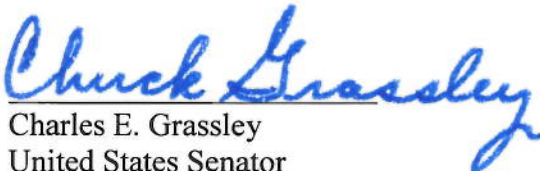
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



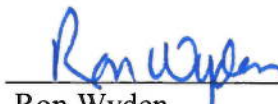
Steve Daines
United States Senator



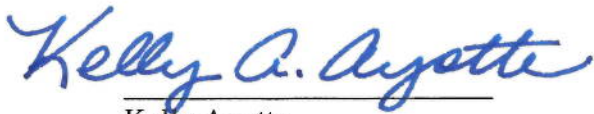
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



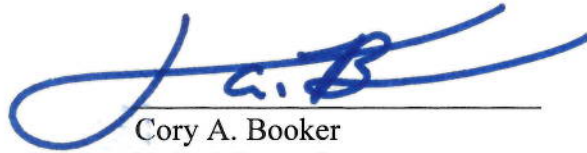
Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



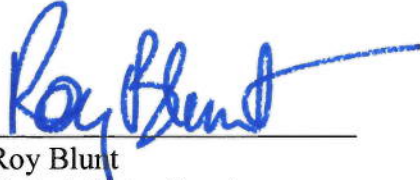
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Kelly Ayotte
United States Senator



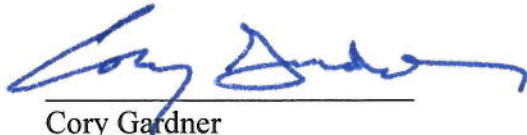
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



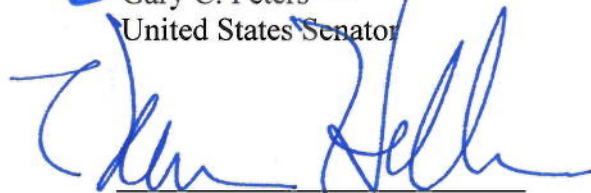
Roy Blunt
United States Senator



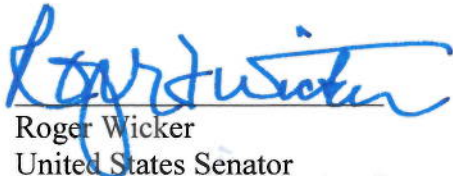
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Dean Heller
United States Senator



Roger Wicker
United States Senator




John Boozman
United States Senator




James Lankford
United States Senator



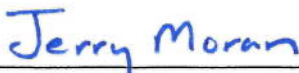
Rob Portman
United States Senator



Ben Sasse
United States Senator



Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



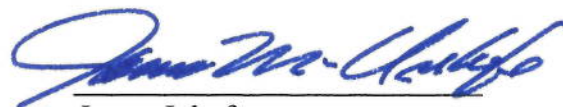
Jerry Moran
United States Senator



Thad Cochran
United States Senator



Richard Burr
United States Senator



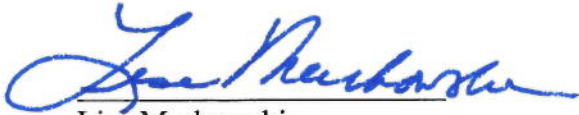
James Inhofe
United States Senator




Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Jeff Flake
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Michael Bennet
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator



Jeff Sessions
United States Senator