STATE OF WYOMING

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0004

Anti boycott, divestment and sanction resolution.
Sponsored by: Representative(s) Byrd

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

A JOINT RESOLUTION recognizing boycott, divestment and sanction methods against Israel and other World Trade Organization trading partners as unsanctioned practices that discriminate based on national origin and discouraging the State of Wyoming from entering into a contract with or investing in a company participating in boycott, divestment and sanction methods.

WHEREAS, boycott, divestment and sanction (BDS) methods mislead and manipulate customary legal and political procedures to encourage companies, institutions and governments to change their policies and thereby erode support for Israel and other World Trade Organization trading partners; and

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WHEREAS, boycotts of entities and individuals of specific countries often amount to discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, race and nationality, which directly contradicts the public policy of the state of Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, ignoring discriminatory practices and boycotts by companies doing business with the State of Wyoming would consequently make the state a de facto partner in these discriminatory practices and boycotts; and

WHEREAS, efforts to inflict economic harm upon the State of Wyoming trading partners materially weakens the State of Wyoming ability to conduct trade and harms vital economic interests of the state; and

WHEREAS, the important economic benefits the State of Wyoming receives from its international trade with Israel and other World Trade Organization trading partners are materially harmed by the promotion of efforts to boycott and otherwise discriminate solely on the basis of discriminatory criteria against entities and individuals in countries with whom states conduct business; and
WHEREAS, the use of falsehoods and distortions to slander Israel's and other World Trade Organization trading partners' citizens and governments ultimately delegitimizes the freedoms and rights that they truly stand for and defend; and

WHEREAS, the BDS movement seeks to avoid the fact that Israel and other World Trade Organization trading partners are states fully recognized under international law. In misrepresenting concepts of human rights and international law the BDS movement actively harms its own integrity and legitimacy; and

WHEREAS, in addition to harms against Israel and other World Trade Organization trading partners, thousands of Palestinian-Arabs have lost jobs and economic opportunity as a result of BDS methods because of the pressure the movement places upon their employers and business partners; and

WHEREAS, the BDS movement damages the important goal of promoting societal peace between Palestinian-Arabs and
Israelis by working against normalization, economic cooperation and shared opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the BDS movement actively encourages intransigence and the rejection of peace negotiations by the Palestinian-Arab government, in favor of the held out hope that Israel and other international trading partners can be harmed to such an extent that gains would be made without the offering of peace.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

Section 1. That the State of Wyoming emphatically rejects boycotts, divestment and sanctions based on national origin and interferences with foreign trade policy.

Section 2. That State of Wyoming discourages politically motivated, national origin-based discrimination actions to boycott, divest from or sanction Israel and other World Trade Organization trading partners.
Section 3. That agencies of the State of Wyoming make note of a company's participation in or compliance with unsanctioned boycotts, divestment from or sanctions against Israel or other World Trade Organization trading partners for consideration when authorized to award grants and contracts and to invest.

Section 4. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor, State Treasurer, Department of Administration and Information and the head of each state agency and department.

(END)