

STATE OF MARYLAND

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

LARRY HOGAN

GOVERNOR

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LT. GOVERNOR



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JOHN C. WOBENSMITH

SECRETARY OF STATE

August 2, 2021

Mr. Howard Libit
Executive Director
Baltimore Jewish Council
5750 Park Heights Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Mr. Ronald Halber
Executive Director
JCRC of Greater Washington
6101 Montrose Road, Suite 205
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Howard and Ronald:

Thank you for your letter to Governor Larry Hogan regarding the recent announcement of Ben & Jerry's intention to end sales of their products in the West Bank and east Jerusalem. As Maryland's Secretary of State, I would like to respond on behalf of the administration.

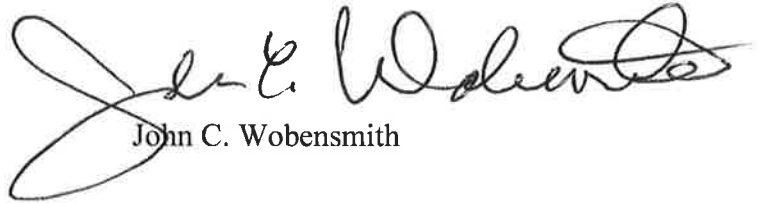
The State of Maryland values our decades-long relationship with Israel and is proud of the significant achievements we have made through cooperation and collaboration between our two regions. Together, we have made notable advancements in critical fields including: medicine, healthcare, biotechnology, and cyber-security. You will recall, in 2016 Governor Hogan joined Deputy Minister Meshulam Nahari in signing a Sister State agreement with the Negev region, establishing Maryland's 19th Sister State relationship and further promoting partnership between Maryland and Israel. We are very proud of the work that has been accomplished by that agreement and look forward to continued robust work between Maryland and Israel.

Please continue to be assured that Maryland is committed to diversity and inclusion and ardently opposes any form of discrimination based on religion, national origin, place of residence or ethnicity - including boycotts of people or entities because of their Israeli national origin, or residence or incorporation in Israel and its territories. I know you are aware that as part of our ongoing efforts to ensure all Marylanders feel welcome in our communities, our state has had a longstanding and broad policy to refrain from contracting with business entities that unlawfully

discriminate in the solicitation, selection, hiring, or commercial treatment of vendors, supplies, subcontractors, or commercial customers. As you noted in your letter, in October of 2017, Governor Hogan reaffirmed the State's commitment through the issue of Executive Order 01.01.2017.25, which "prohibits all Executive Branch agencies controlled by the Governor from entering into a procurement contract with a business entity unless it certifies that it will, for the duration of its contractual obligations, refrain from a boycott of Israel." Accordingly, the State will review State contracts to determine whether Ben & Jerry's and its parent company, Unilever, have existing contracts with the State of Maryland and the State will respond accordingly.

Thank you again for reaching out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Wobensmith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and end. It is positioned above the printed name "John C. Wobensmith".

John C. Wobensmith