



SIMCHA FELDER
Senator, 17th District

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July 28, 2021

Honorable Thomas P. DiNapoli
New York State Comptroller
110 State Street
Albany, NY 12236

Dear Comptroller DiNapoli:

I am writing to you requesting that you take significant actions against Ben & Jerry's and its parent company Unilever due to their recent announcement that they will stop selling their ice cream products in parts of Israel. Ben & Jerry's actions are clearly in support of the Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel and are an obvious violation of State Pension Fund investment policies and Executive Order No. 157.

It is my understanding that the State Pension Fund has a policy of restricting investments in companies involved in the BDS movement. In addition, Executive Order No. 157, which Governor Andrew Cuomo issued on June 5, 2016, directs New York State agencies and authorities to divest all public funds from organizations supporting the Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions campaign against Israel. I have enclosed both a copy of EO 157 and my recent letter to the OGS Commissioner requesting Ben & Jerry's be placed on the list of companies supporting the BDS campaign.

Companies like Ben & Jerry's, who advocate and engage in boycotts against Israel, and who promote anti-Semitic ideology, are not worthy of State investment and have no place as a state contractor. This type of bigotry, intolerance, and injustice must be confronted and stopped. According to news reports, 35 other States have similar laws which seek to punish companies who engage in anti-Israel discrimination. Many of these States have already begun reviewing legal actions and repercussions that must be taken as a result of Ben & Jerry's announcement.

I encourage you to view the actions of Ben & Jerry's and its parent company Unilever as the hateful and intolerant behavior they are. Such conduct only serves to sow hate and encourage violence against the State of Israel and all Jewish people. By taking strong actions, such as stopping the State Pension Fund from investing in Ben & Jerry's and Unilever, or canceling all their State contracts, you can show that hate and anti-Semitism have no place in our State or society.

Thank you for your consideration and review. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simcha Felder".

Simcha Felder
Senator, 17th S.D.