



**SIMCHA FELDER**  
Senator, 17th District

July 28, 2021

Roann M. Destito, Commissioner  
New York State Office of General Services  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12242

Dear Commissioner Destito:

I am contacting you to request that Ben & Jerry's and its parent company Unilever be immediately placed on the list of companies that engage in boycott, divestment or sanctions activity targeting Israel pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order No. 157.

As you know, Executive Order No. 157, which Governor 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 (BDS) campaign against Israel. According to the Governor, this Executive Order is meant to ensure that this state will do everything in its power to end the hateful and intolerant BDS campaign against Israel.

On July 19, 2021, Ben & Jerry's issued a statement that they will stop selling their ice cream products in parts of Israel. Ben & Jerry's actions are clearly in support of the BDS campaign and are an obvious violation of Executive Order No. 157. Companies such as Ben & Jerry's, who advocate and engage in boycotts against Israel, and who promote anti-Semitic ideology, 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 placing Ben & Jerry's and Unilever on the list of *Institutions or Companies Determined to Participate In Boycott, Divestment, or Sanctions Activity Targeting Israel*, it will send a clear message that these actions are unacceptable and will not be tolerated by New York State.

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, 17<sup>th</sup> S.D.