

Fact Sheet - **HB 16-1284** - Please vote **NO**

HB 16-1284: "Divestment from Companies that have Economic Prohibitions Against Israel"

Please protect the freedom to boycott! Boycotts are a constitutionally protected form of free speech in the U.S., and have a long history of being used successfully to address injustice and effect political change. We oppose HB 16-1284 and ask you to vote against this bill. Some reasons:

- Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (**BDS**) is a **non-violent movement that seeks equal rights** by encouraging Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian land, recognize the rights of Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality, and respect the rights of Palestinian refugees <http://bdsmovement.net/call>
- BDS is founded on an **anti-racist platform** that rejects all forms of racism, including Islamophobia and anti-Semitism. See more: <http://bdsmovement.net/2013/bds-movement-position-on-boycott-of-individuals-10679#sthash.WNXVCX8x.dpuf>
- A "**Two-State Solution**" is a laudable goal, but 48 years later, it has not happened. After its conquest of the West Bank in 1967, Israel built settlements on Palestinian lands east of the Green Line. The West Bank, land which could have been a Palestinian state, is now home to more than 500,000 Israeli settlers. Furthermore, the charter of the current ruling party, Likud, stipulates that there shall be no Arab state between the Mediterranean and the Jordan.
- Nobel Peace Prize winner **Archbishop Desmond Tutu supports the BDS movement:**
In South Africa, we could not have achieved our democracy without the help of people around the world, who through the use of non-violent means, such as boycotts and divestment, encouraged their governments and other corporate actors to reverse decades-long support for the apartheid regime. The same issues of inequality and injustice today motivate the divestment movement trying to end Israel's decades long occupation of Palestinian territory and the unfair and prejudicial treatment of the Palestinian people by the Israeli government ruling over them. (Haaretz, March 10, 2014: <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.578872>)
- HB16-1284 states that this bill should not interfere with **U.S. foreign policy** (Section 2. (1) (r). The boycott targets settlements in the West Bank built by Israel in defiance of both U.S. foreign policy and international law (Fourth Geneva Convention signed by both Israel and the U.S.). Every Republican and Democratic President since 1967 has opposed Israeli settlements on Palestinian lands.

We ask you to VOTE NO on HB-16-1284—

Coloradans for Justice in Palestine – Friends of Sabeel-Colorado – Front Range Jewish Voice for Peace – American Friends Service Committee, Colorado Office – Green Party of Colorado – Boulder Branch, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

