

Written Opponent Testimony
HB 291 - Create the Ohio International Trade Commission
By Charles Parise

I do not believe it is in the best interest of Ohio or its constituents to form economic partnerships with unstable countries in violation of international law. Israel has regularly disregarded international law, has become a pariah to many of our international allies, and is showing several signs of economic instability (increasing brain drain, ballooning debt to GDP ratio, etc). While Israel continues to violate human rights in Gaza, it is continuing to expand its conflict throughout the Middle East, most recently launching an unprovoked attack against Iran, citing intelligence on the status of nuclear weapons research in Iran that US intelligence has directly contradicted. This expanding conflict alongside Israel's ongoing economic struggles does not bode well for an economic partnership that will include "mutual economic support" and "mutual investment in infrastructure." I do not want to see Ohio resources going towards supporting Israel's ongoing campaign of violence, or towards rebuilding damaged infrastructure that their government's actions are responsible for in the first place. Additionally, Israel's creation of Pegasus, a software that has been proven to have been used to spy on citizens in multiple countries (i.e. the documentary *Surveilled*), makes me uncomfortable about forming a relationship based on further developing our cyber warfare capabilities. I would much prefer that any and all resources that were to go to this project be used to bolster our domestic economy. Thank you for your time!