

Witness testimony on HB 188, hearing date 10/28/25

We Ohioans, especially here in SE Ohio, are facing multiple challenges that require investment by our state. Hunger is on the rise and will be a hundred times worse starting Saturday when SNAP and WIC benefits stop. Our libraries and schools are under strain. I want our money invested in our state!

I am shocked our lawmakers would advise investment in Israel instead. I have serious concerns about this bill's lack of transparency, oversight, and return on investment for Ohio taxpayers. The legislation includes no clear benchmarks, performance reporting requirements, or community input mechanisms. The bill creates a board stacked with political appointees tied to pro-Israel organizations, explicitly excluding Palestinian, Arab-American, Muslim, and neutral voices. It contains no independent oversight, no competitive process, and no clear safeguards to ensure accountability or public benefit.

This is not just about trade. This is about values. Israel is currently under international investigation for crimes against humanity. A trade partnership will make Ohio complicit.

I strongly believe Ohio's resources should stay in Ohio, to build up the economy of our own communities. Please stand for transparency, equity, and fiscal responsibility, and consider the people of Ohio who elected you—not foreign lobbyists—and to vote NO on HB 188.

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