

My name is Diana Sette, and I am a resident of Cleveland, and I strongly oppose HB 188. This bill would funnel millions of taxpayer dollars into a foreign partnership with the State of Israel. This funding would be sent overseas at a time when Ohio communities are facing deep cuts to libraries, schools, healthcare, infrastructure, and public services.

As a healthcare worker and mother, I am shocked our lawmakers would make such a proposal in this dire moment. 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. It also proposes to invest in a state's economy which has seen its credit ratings downgraded repeatedly with decline in the tech sector. We should not be gambling with Ohioans' hard-earned tax dollars.

Most importantly, this bill proposes to send millions to a state that is currently under international investigation for crimes against humanity. A trade partnership makes Ohio complicit in war crimes and prolonged unlawful occupation of the Palestinian territory, which has now escalated to a full fledged genocide. Please read the most recent report by the United Nations regarding the ways in which international partnerships can legally be held accountable for complicity in these crimes: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/coiopt/a-80-492-advance-unedited-version.pdf>.

HB 188 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.

In three days, nearly 1.5 million Ohioans are set to lose SNAP benefits. Why not propose emergency food funds so our people, especially our children, sick and elderly, are not abandoned hungry and starving? Why not invest the proposed \$10,000,000 over two years in Ohio's farmers, like the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission proposed with their [Agricultural Economic stimulus](#) plan they've proposed as a way to strengthen Ohio's economy from the inside? There are so many ways that Ohio can invest in local innovation, workforce development, medical centers, universities and technology, but sending our money overseas to a declining and questionable state is unethical and unwise.

I strongly believe Ohio's resources must 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.

Sincerely,

Diana Sette