

Re HB 96, Section 259.20, Item DEVCD22 under the Department of Development's budget (Line Item 195537).

Dear Finance Committee chair and members:

I write to oppose HB 96, Section 259.20, Item DEVCD22 under the Department of Development's budget (Line Item 195537), the Ohio-Israeli agricultural initiative. This project will send funds much needed by Ohio libraries, schools, public health, and farmers to Israel, a nation committing genocide. As a Jewish-American, I am horrified that Israel is given a free pass and billions of US supplied weapons to slaughter the native population of that land. It is disgusting that our legislators are considering anything other than speaking out to stop the current active starvation by the Israeli government of tens of thousands of babies and young children, on top of the daily killing and bombing that after 20 months have destroyed Gaza and possibly more than 100,000 lives. Complicity in genocide is an international crime. Stop looking away. Ohio taxpayers should not support a foreign state while Ohio's own rural communities and farming sectors struggle and should be the recipients of this public support—especially in underfunded Appalachia, where infrastructure, education, food access, and health care suffer as corporations, billionaires, lobbyists, and Israel steal our wealth.