

Good evening, my name is Jerah Pettibone and I'm a vegetable and livestock farmer in Southeast Ohio. I'm writing in opposition to HB 96, Section 259.20, Item DEVCD22 under the Department of Development's budget (Line Item 195537). This item would allocate 500,000 of tax-payer money to agri-business collaboration with Israel. Why? Ohio Farmers have had millions of dollars worth of contracts broken by the Federal Government in recent months and those tax dollars are needed here, in Ohio, supporting Ohio agri-business. Farmers are hardworking people who value local community, and local economies. Why would my tax dollars go to some random ag company on the other side of the planet instead of serving my Appalachian community? This just seems like Ohio is grasping at straws trying to find random ways to support Israel, a genocidal ethnostate. We are the people who feed you every day. Keep our tax money in Ohio, and instead of asking some non-profit lobby group in Cleveland what farmers need, ask us. Ask Ohio farmers what we actually need so we can continue growing healthy food for Ohio families. Thank you and I hope you eat well today.