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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas
51st District, California

COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES
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CONSUMER CREDIT
OVERSIGHT AND
INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE ON
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

September 6, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor of California
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 134
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Governor Brown:

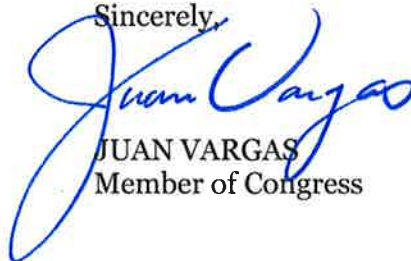
I write to strongly urge you to sign into law the *California Combatting the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions of Israel Act of 2016* (A.B. 2844) to reaffirm California's strong economic relationship with Israel. I am proud that California is on the cusp of joining other state legislatures in confronting the hateful and incendiary Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. We must continue to stand firmly behind Israel, including combatting attempts to isolate and delegitimize our stalwart ally during these unstable times.

During my tenure in Congress, I have worked in a bipartisan and bicameral manner to address the detrimental effects of the BDS movement to our national security interests. Most recently, I co-led the *Combatting BDS Act of 2016* (H.R. 4514), which affirms at the federal level the legal authority of state and local governments to identify and divest public funds from entities engaged in BDS-related activities. I hope this initiative will embolden localities across the country to emulate A.B. 2844's goal of countering the hateful targeting of Israel.

California has a long history of collaborating with Israel on many pressing issues including technological innovation, water management and educational exchanges. We should be encouraging universities, the private sector and local and state governments to deepen their relationships with Israel, not engaging in economic warfare.

Thank you for your leadership on this and many other issues facing California. I strongly encourage you to sign this bill into law and to send a strong message of support for an enduring United States-Israel relationship.

Sincerely,



JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress