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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution condemning the Boycott, Divestment and
3 Sanctions movement and the increasing incidence of
4 acts of anti-Semitism.

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6 WHEREAS, Floridians have, as a matter of public policy,
7 long opposed bigotry, oppression, discrimination, and injustice,
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Florida and Israel have enjoyed a long history of
10 friendship and are great allies, each supporting the best
11 interests of the other, and

12 WHEREAS, the State of Israel, the only democracy in the
13 Middle East, is the greatest friend and ally of the United
14 States in the region, and

15 WHEREAS, the elected representatives of the state recognize
16 the importance of expressing Florida's unwavering support for
17 the Jewish people and the State of Israel's right to exist and
18 right to self-defense, and

19 WHEREAS, the incidence of acts of anti-Semitism is
20 increasing throughout the world, including in the United States
21 and in Florida, and is reflected in official hate crime
22 statistics, and

23 WHEREAS, the international Boycott, Divestment and
24 Sanctions (BDS) movement is one of the main vehicles for
25 spreading anti-Semitic perspectives and advocating the
26 elimination of the Jewish State, and

27 WHEREAS, the level of activities promoting BDS against
28 Israel has increased in this state, in communities and on
29 college campuses, and contributes to the promotion of anti-

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30 Semitic and anti-Zionist propoganda, and

31 WHEREAS, the increase in BDS campaign activities on college
32 campuses nationwide has resulted in an increase in
33 confrontations with, intimidation of, and discrimination against
34 Jewish students, and

35 WHEREAS, leaders of the BDS movement express that their
36 goal is to eliminate Israel as the national home of the Jewish
37 people, and

38 WHEREAS, the BDS campaign's call for academic and cultural
39 boycotts has been condemned by many of our nation's largest
40 academic associations, more than 250 university presidents, and
41 many other leading scholars as a violation of the bedrock
42 principle of academic freedom, NOW, THEREFORE,

43

44 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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46 That the Florida Senate condemns the international Boycott,
47 Divestment and Sanctions movement against the State of Israel
48 and calls upon the governmental institutions of this state to
49 denounce hatred and discrimination whenever they appear.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate urges the
51 President of the United States to order withdrawal of the United
52 States Customs and Border Protection statement dated January 23,
53 2016, entitled "West Bank Country of Origin Marking
54 Requirements," so that goods made in the West Bank can continue
55 to be properly labeled "Made in Israel."

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be
57 presented to the President of the United States, the President
58 and Secretary of the United States Senate, and the Speaker and

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59 Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to the
60 Embassy of Israel in Washington, D.C., for transmission to the
61 proper authorities of the State of Israel as a tangible token of
62 the sentiments expressed herein.