

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

SENATE  
RESOLUTION 26

By: Burns

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution reaffirming Oklahoma's friendship with Israel and supporting partnerships between that nation and Oklahoma's state government and businesses.

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma and Israel have been friends and allies since 1948, extending to mutually beneficial ventures in business, art, and education throughout those years; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Oklahoma exported over \$60 million worth of manufacturing goods to Israel. Since 1996, Oklahoma exports to Israel have totaled more than \$882 million, ranking Israel as Oklahoma's 17th leading trade partner; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Governor David Walters created the Oklahoma-Israel Exchange, which became an official non-profit organization during the administration of Governor Frank Keating. In 2003, Governor Brad Henry led a delegation that included senior government officials, Jewish community leaders, and businesspeople from throughout Oklahoma on a mission geared towards expanding Israel-Oklahoma ties in finance, agriculture, education, and culture; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2011, U.S. Senator James Inhofe led a group of more  
2 than 10 U.S. legislators from six different states on a tour, which  
3 included Israel, where they met with American and Israeli security  
4 officials to discuss collaborative efforts at combatting terrorism  
5 and other threats; and

6 WHEREAS, in 2020, legislation was passed by the Legislature and  
7 signed by Governor Kevin Stitt declaring that Israel is a prominent  
8 trading partner of the State of Oklahoma and that the state, and  
9 those companies that do business by and through the state, in the  
10 interest of the state's economic policy, should not boycott trade  
11 with Israel.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION  
13 OF THE 58TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

14 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate reaffirms Oklahoma's strong,  
15 historical alliance with Israel and continues to support mutually  
16 beneficial business, cultural, and governmental relationships.

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