

The Honorable Chair  
Delegate Melissa Wells  
House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee  
142 Lowe House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Vice Chair  
Delegate Kenneth Kerr

**RE: FAVORABLE - SUPPORT of House Bill 1382  
State Procurement - Prohibited Certifications - Boycotts of Foreign Countries**

To the Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and esteemed members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee,

My name is Fiona Chamness, and I am a resident of Baltimore City. I am writing to support HB 1382, the "State Procurement - Prohibited Certifications - Boycotts of Foreign Countries" bill. This bill undoes former Governor Hogan's executive order that prevented state contractors from participating in boycotts of goods from foreign countries. The existing executive order conflicts with the basic first amendment principle that people have a right to engage in peaceful political action without being coerced by the state.

Boycotts are a vital form of economic action with a long history. While Governor Hogan's original order was clearly aimed at the Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, the order also precludes other such boycotts; for example, boycotting brands aiding the Russian government's invasion of Ukraine would not be possible either. As someone with a long history of boycotting companies based on environmental and labor abuses, I am deeply wary of the kind of overreach that allows the U.S. government to control how contractors exercise their conscience in economic terms.

For these reasons and many more, **I ask the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to give HB 1382 a favorable report.**

Thank you for your time,

Fiona Chamness  
Baltimore City  
734-646-1083