

# CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
95814

May 31, 2013

Sherry Lansing, Chair  
and University of California Board of Regents  
1111 Franklin St., 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Chair Lansing and Regents:

As legislators in the California State Senate and Assembly, we join in congratulating the University of California (UC) Regents on its resolute stance against those at UC campuses pushing for divestment from both Israel and from companies doing business with Israel.

We are concerned with the divisive impact on our university campuses caused by the Boycott, Divest, Sanction (BDS) movement and encourage efforts to engage the community in a more balanced and civil discussion on the issue. We greatly appreciate the statement issued in May 2010 by the UC Regents' Chair and Vice Chair in conjunction with the UC President, firmly rejecting the notion of divestment from Israel or companies doing business with Israel.

The BDS campaign and resolutions such as those that have passed at several UC campuses fail to foster dialogue and understanding among those with different opinions. We fear that such campaigns deepen the division between Israelis and Palestinians, drawing them further away from a lasting peace. We believe that the UC's time and resources would be better invested in efforts to encourage all parties to work together in a proactive manner.

We believe in free speech and encourage our college campuses to embrace a true "marketplace of ideas," where all sides of an issue are adequately represented. We believe that young leaders in the UC system have tremendous opportunities and the motivation to build a better tomorrow. They should be empowered to advance initiatives that foster peace and reconciliation. The BDS movement unfortunately appears to be creating an antagonistic environment for students who support Israel and those opposed to such divisive tactics.

Once again, we thank and applaud you for standing firm in your refusal to divest in response to these divisive and conflict-ridden resolutions.

Sincerely,



**DARRELL STEINBERG**  
President pro Tempore of the Senate



**BOB BLUMENFIELD**  
Assemblymember, 45<sup>th</sup> District



Lansing and UC Board of Regents  
May 31, 2013

John Quinn

Richard

Matt BGS

Lois Wolk

Bill Emmons

John Clark

Nannapour

Mark

Paul

Connie Conway

Mark Seind

Ted W. T.

Catherine Salguero

Norven Ew

Mark Leo

Hannah-Johnson

Kevin de Leon

Bob Huff

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Jack Hall

Phillips

Joan Buchanan

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Lansing and UC Board of Regents  
May 31, 2013

Susan A. Bonilla

John C. Alden

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Angie R. R.

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Kristin A. Olson

Mark S. Stein

Tom Daly

V. M. L. G.

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