

By: Representative McAlindon

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO ENCOURAGE THE STATE OF ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND ISRAELI COMPANIES REGARDING EDUCATION, HISTORY, RELIGION, ARCHEOLOGY, AGRICULTURE, AND INNOVATION.

Subtitle

TO ENCOURAGE THE STATE OF ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND ISRAELI COMPANIES REGARDING EDUCATION, HISTORY, RELIGION, ARCHEOLOGY, AGRICULTURE, AND INNOVATION.

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas and the State of Israel have enjoyed cordial and mutually beneficial relations since 1948, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each passing year; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas, which lies in America's heartland, has a special kinship with Judea and Samaria, Israel's biblical heartland; and

WHEREAS, cities across Arkansas bear the names of biblical cities throughout Judea and Samaria, such as Bethel, Hebron, Shiloh, Salem, and numerous others; and

WHEREAS, in the words of former Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, supporting the State of Israel is "a fundamental part of American culture, history, and of the ties that we have between Judaism and Christianity" and is "a friendship that helps keep America safe"; and



WHEREAS, in 2022, former Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson joined Chief Scientist and Chairman of the Israel Innovation Authority Dr. Ami Appelbaum and Consul General of Israel to the Southwest Livia Link-Raviv to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Arkansas and the Israel Innovation Authority ensuring the promotion and cooperation in technological innovation, research, and development among businesses, corporations, research universities, and other entities within their respective borders; and

WHEREAS, the State of Israel has been a cornerstone of America's defense against the spread of totalitarian movements and military dictatorship into the Mediterranean and the Middle East for years; and

WHEREAS, the State of Israel and Arkansas have benefitted from defense cooperation through the building of the Iron Dome, thus saving countless lives; and

WHEREAS, students all over the world greatly benefit from overseas educational programs that promote culture, education, and learning, and these benefits are typically realized by the students' home countries; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish State of Israel has a rich cultural and archaeological history and world-class archaeological sites, which reflect the biblical tradition held sacred by all of Western civilization; and

WHEREAS, the State of Israel is recognized as a world leader in agricultural technologies; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas is one (1) of the top agriculture-producing states in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the State of Israel is recognized internationally as the start-up nation and is ranked as one (1) of the top innovative nations in the world; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas can meet some of its challenges, including grid

security, water purification, civilian security first response, and more, through partnerships developed with the State of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the State of Israel is our only remaining sister democracy in the Middle East and its biblical heartland, Judea and Samaria,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives encourage the State of Arkansas to build upon the Memorandum of Understanding signed by former Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, which encourages partnerships in innovation between Arkansas and the State of Israel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the House of Representatives strongly encourage the State of Arkansas to explore additional strategic partnerships with the State of Israel and Israeli companies regarding education, history, religion, archeology, agriculture, and innovation.