

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2583:
Anti Arab League Boycott
Offered by Ranking Member Howard L. Berman

SUMMARY:

The Arab League continues to try to pressure U.S. firms into cooperating with their boycott of Israel. In FY 2010 alone, U.S. firms reported 950 demands from Arab governments to comply. This amendment will strengthen and make permanent the prohibition on U.S. persons cooperating with the Arab League's boycott against Israel.

THIS AMENDMENT WOULD:

- Require the President take vigorous action to seek an end to both the primary and secondary Arab Boycotts of Israel.
- Prohibit U.S. persons from participating in the secondary Arab League boycott of Israel.
- Require U.S. persons to report all requests for cooperation with secondary Arab League boycott of Israel.
- Impose severe penalties for violations: \$250,000 civil fines, up to \$1 million and 20 years in prison for criminal violations.
- For the first time, authorize the President to restrict or prohibit U.S. persons from participating in primary boycotts (prior law prevented the President from restricting primary boycotts).

WHY THIS AMENDMENT IS NECESSARY:

- The 1977-era antiboycott law making it illegal for U.S. companies to cooperate with the Arab League's secondary boycott expired in 1994 and has been kept in effect by temporary annual emergency declarations by the President.
- The President's annual declaration of emergency for export controls and antiboycott describes the national emergency as the failure of Congress to act.