



# Censorship, Entanglement & Corruption: The Israel Lobby 2021 Agenda

Grant F. Smith



## Direct Lobbying

Drafting legislation or portions of legislation and canvassing members to sponsor and introduce it.

An attempt to influence legislation through communication with: (i) members or employees of a legislative body, and/or (ii) any government official or employee who may participate in the formulation of the legislation.

Legislative Resource Center  
135 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
<http://lobbyingdisclosure.house.gov>

Office of Public Records  
232 Hart Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
<http://www.senate.gov/lobby>

## LOBBYING REPORT

Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (Section 5) - All Filers Are Required to Complete This Page

1. Registrant Name <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organization Lobbying Firm <input type="checkbox"/> Self Employed Individual American Israel Public Affairs Committee	
2. Address Address1 251 H Street NW Address2 City Washington State DC Zip Code 20001 Country USA	
3. Principal place of business (if different than line 2) City State Zip Code Country	
4a. Contact Name	b. Telephone Number c. E-mail
5. Senate ID# 2718-12	
7. Client Name <input type="checkbox"/> Self <input type="checkbox"/> Check if client is a state or local government or instrumentality AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE	
6. House ID# 310950000	

### TYPE OF REPORT

8. Year 2020 Q1 (1/1 - 3/31) ☐ Q2 (4/1 - 6/30) ☐ Q3 (7/1 - 9/30) ☒ Q4 (10/1 - 12/31) ☐  
9. Check if this filing amends a previously filed version of this report ☐  
10. Check if this is a Termination Report ☐ Termination Date  
11. No Lobbying Issue Activity ☐

INCOME OR EXPENSES - YOU MUST complete either Line 12 or Line 13	
<b>12. Lobbying</b> INCOME relating to lobbying activities for this reporting period was: Less than \$5,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 or more <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$ 604,527.00 Provide a good faith estimate, rounded to the nearest \$10,000, of all lobbying related income for the client (including all payments to the registrant by any other entity for lobbying activities on behalf of the client).	<b>13. Organizations</b> EXPENSE relating to lobbying activities for this reporting period were: Less than \$5,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 or more <input type="checkbox"/> \$ <b>14. REPORTING</b> Check box to indicate expense accounting method. See instructions for description of options. <input type="checkbox"/> Method A. Reporting amounts using LDA definitions only <input type="checkbox"/> Method B. Reporting amounts under section 6033(b)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code <input type="checkbox"/> Method C. Reporting amounts under section 162(e) of the Internal Revenue Code

Signature	Digitally Signed By: Rachel Hirsch	Date	10/19/2020 10:56:26 AM
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**LOBBYING ACTIVITY.** Select as many codes as necessary to reflect the general issue areas in which the registrant engaged in lobbying on behalf of the client during the reporting period. Using a separate page for each code, provide information as requested. Add additional page(s) as needed.

15. General issue area code FOR

16. Specific lobbying issues

LEG-1027 United States Israel Cooperation Enhancement and Regional Security Act

Source Data:  
Reports on file  
with the Clerk of  
the US House of  
Representatives

What does it take to mount a sustained direct lobbying campaign?

- Longevity/trajectory
- Teams of effective, full-time lobbyists.
- A highly developed lobbying agenda.
- Ability to translate that agenda into legislation.
- Financially robust host organizations:
  - AIPAC - \$105 million
  - ADL - \$75 million
  - AJC - \$75 million

Christian Zionists don't matter much in the direct lobbying world.

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- CUFI Action, the largest, appears to be more of a “cutout” than an independent direct lobbying organization.
  - David Brog, cousin of former Prime Minister of Israel Ehud Barak on Sheldon Adelson payroll.
  - Received startup funding from Goldhirsh Foundation
  - Unknown donations/donors
- Mostly follow lead of the mainstream Jewish Israel lobby. E.G. 1995 Jerusalem Embassy Act
- Haven't been around very long
- No visible lobbying on top Christian Zionist objectives.

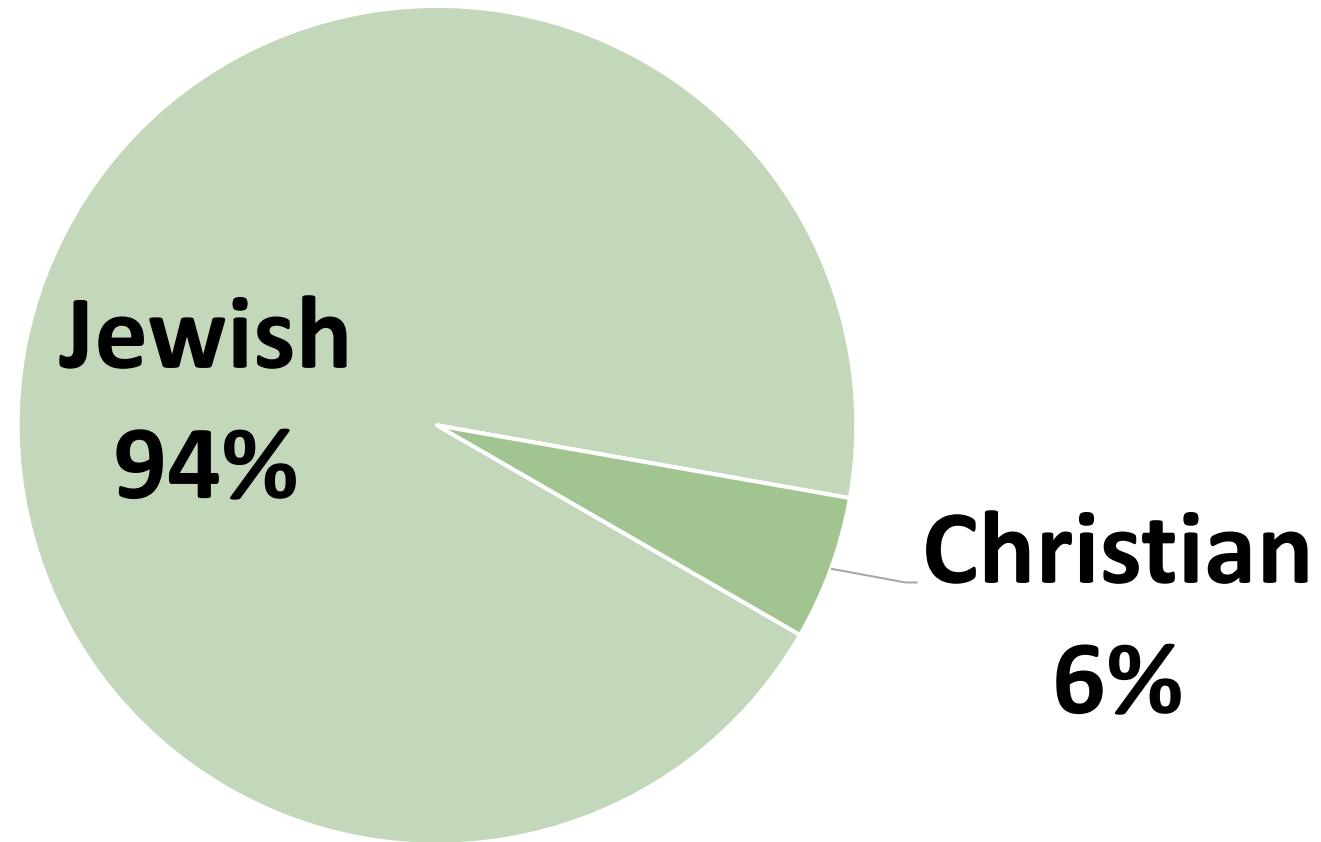




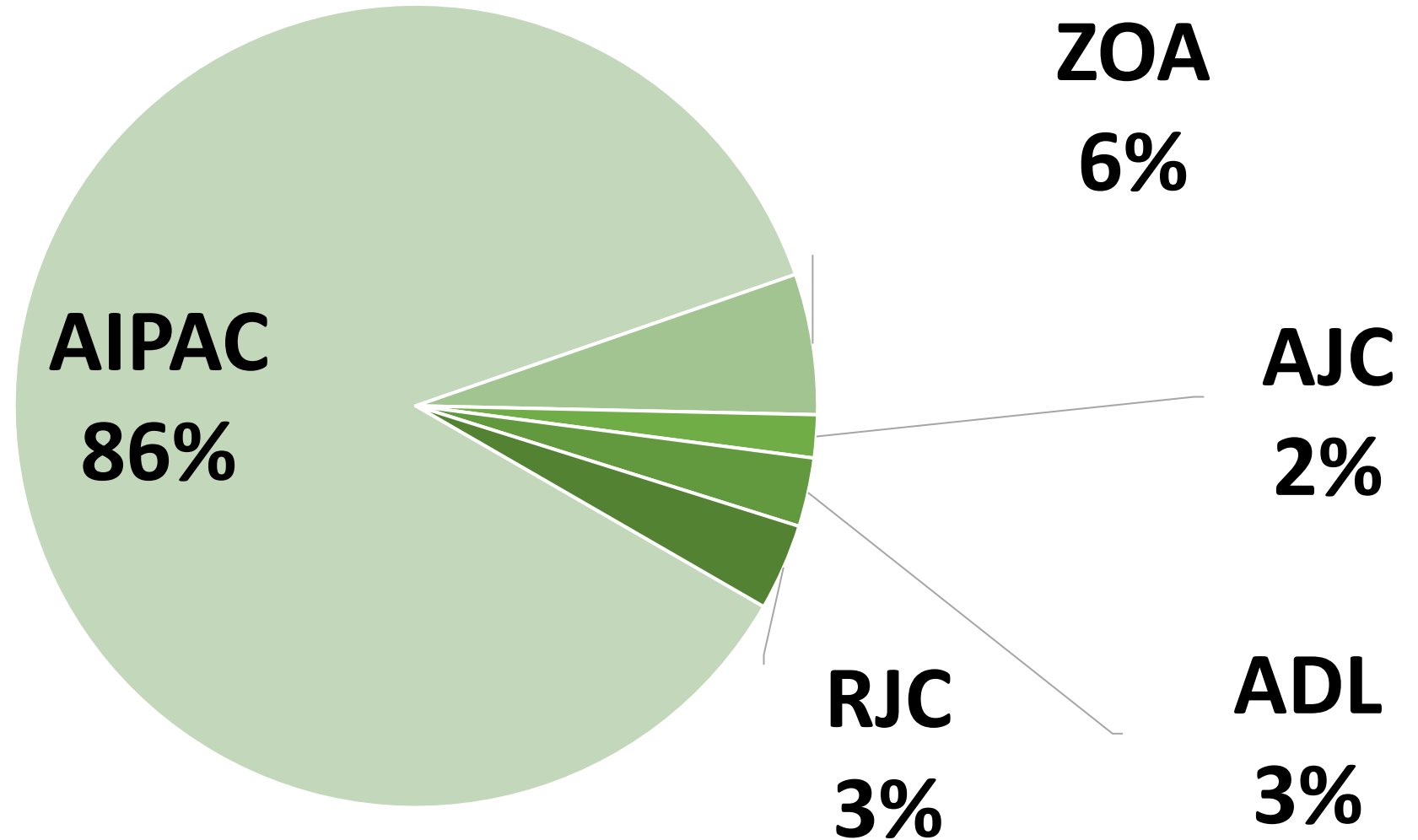
# **Christian vs Jewish Establishment Israel**

## **Lobbying Expenditures**

**(\$3.6 million 3Q19-2Q2020)**



# Jewish Establishment Israel Lobbying by Organization (\$3.4 million 3Q19-2Q2020)



# AIPAC Direct Lobbying

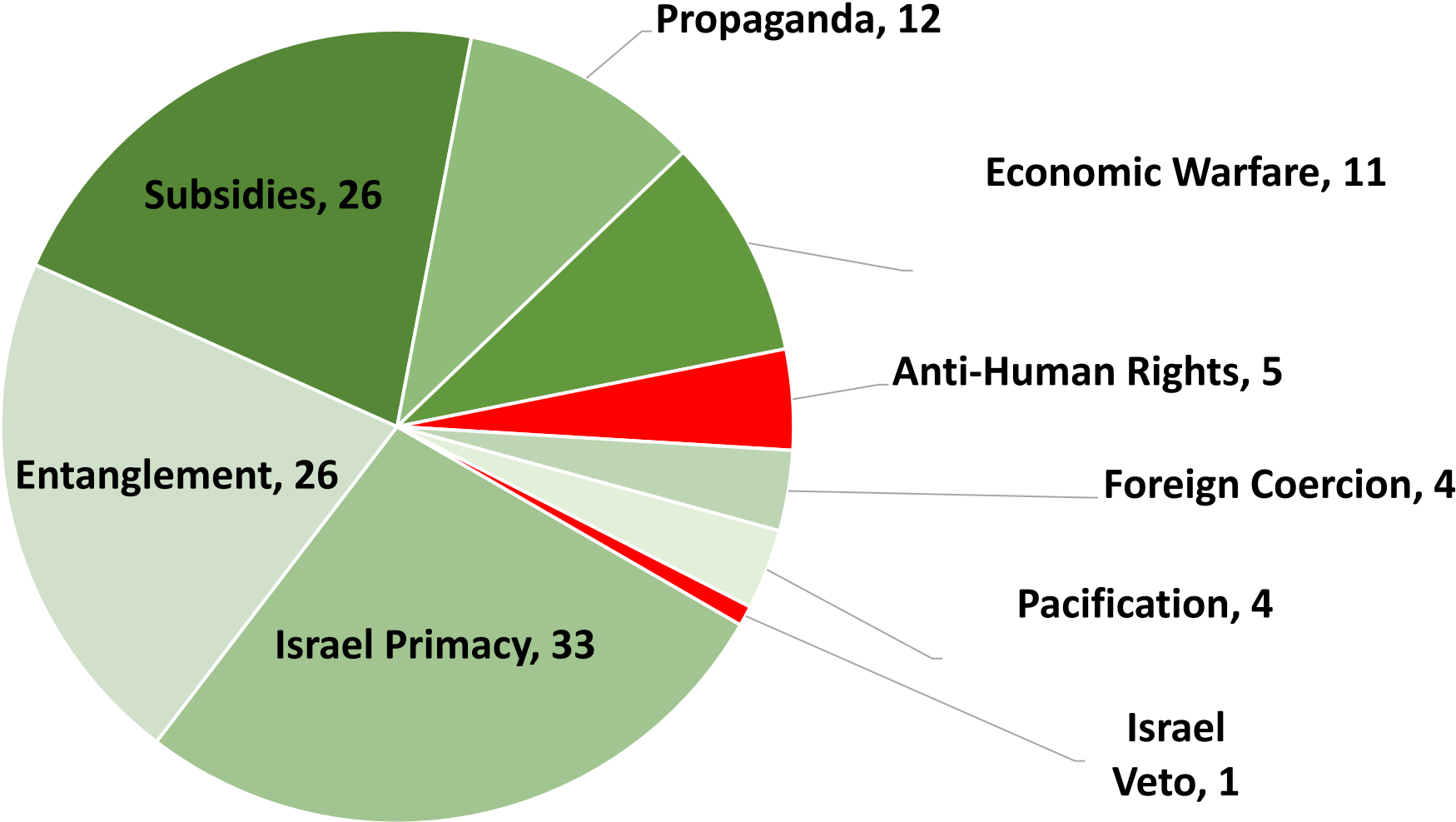
- FY 20 U.S. - Israel Defense Cooperation Assistance
- H.R.3055 - Commerce, Justice, Science, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021
- S.Res.509 - A resolution calling upon the United Nations Security Council to adopt a resolution on Iran that extends the dates by which Annex B restrictions under
- H.R.608 - State, Foreign Operations, Agriculture, Rural Development, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2021
- H.R.10 - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021
- H.R. 1837 - United States-Israel Cooperation Enhancement and Regional Security Act
- H.R.6395 - To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.
- S. 3176 - United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2020
- H.Res.1131 - Condemning the murder of Yasser Arafat and renouncing Palestinian Authority martyr payments to terrorists.
- S.852 - Anti-Semitism Awareness Act of 2019



# Categories of AIPAC Direct Lobbying

- Propaganda – Directed at Americans, Congress, foreign countries, the rest of the world.
- Entanglement – Infiltrating Israeli government, corporations and NGOs into major, cutting-edge US government and private sector initiatives.
- Subsidies - US tax dollars for Israeli R&D, free U.S. weapons, etc.
- Coercion - Direct U.S. influence to force Israeli initiatives onto other countries, often against public opinion of target countries.
- Anti-Human Rights - Advancement of Palestinian human rights (opposed by AIPAC).
- Israel Primacy - AIPAC lobbying on non-Israel centric bills as a way of building influence, threatening agency budgets and constantly "showing the flag."
- Economic Warfare – Directing US agencies (mostly OTFI) against Israel's rivals.
- Israel Veto – Giving Israel authority over US sovereign decisions.

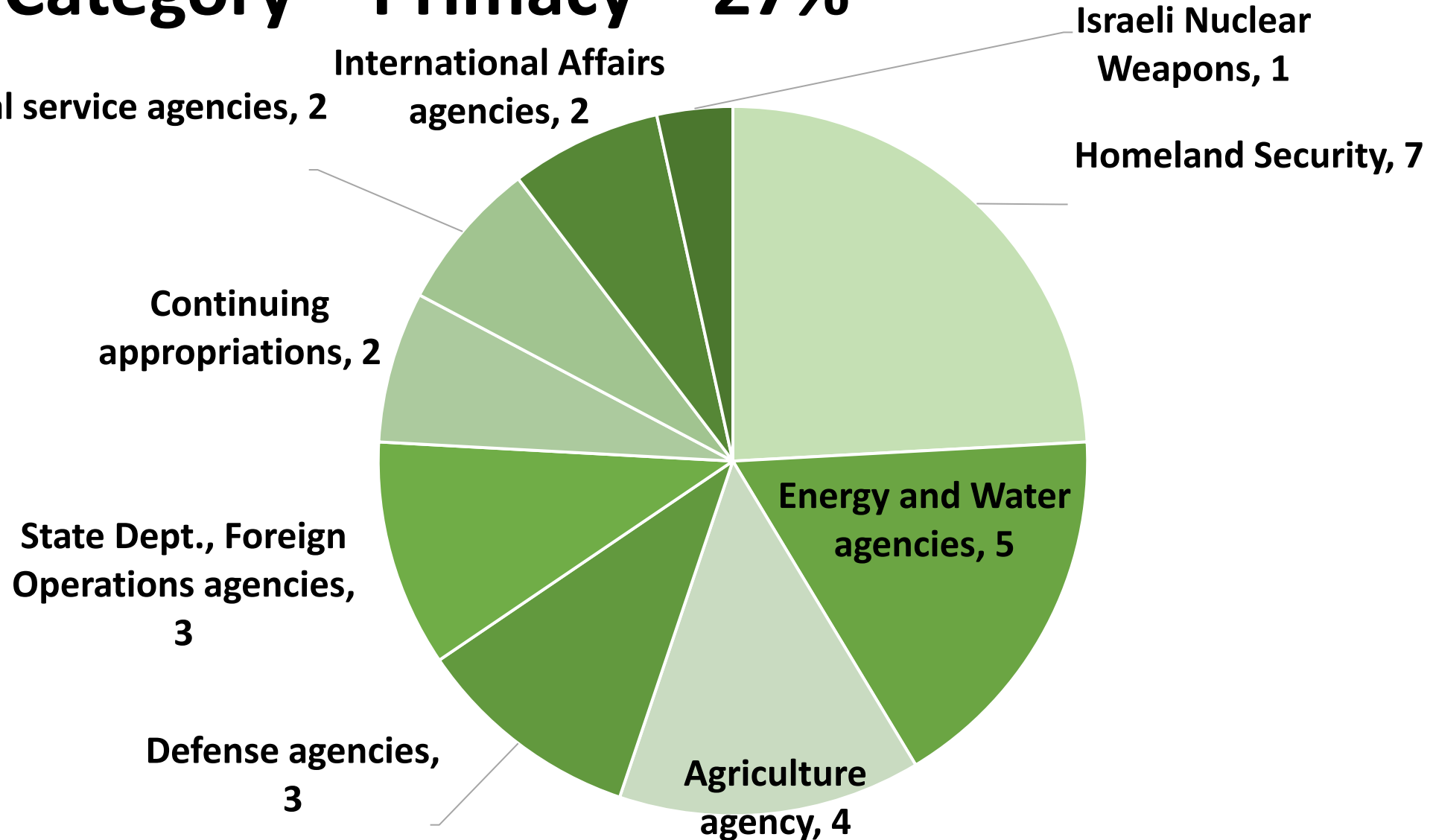
# AIPAC Direct Lobbying initiatives by Major Category



# Israel Primacy - AIPAC Direct Lobbying

- FY 21 - State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bills
- FY 21 - Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bills
- H.R.4378 - Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Health Extenders Act of 2019
- U.S. International Affairs Budget
- H.R.3931 - Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2020
- H.R.7613 - Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021
- FY 21 - Defense Appropriations Bills
- FY 21 - Agriculture Appropriations Bills

# AIPAC Israel Direct Lobbying by Sub-Category – Primacy – 27%



# Avoiding Israel/lobby accountability over the NUMEC affair & Proliferation

- 1960s theft of USG nuclear material.
- Enough for a dozen bombs.
- Polluted 44 acres of land near Apollo, PA.
- Site of a half-billion \$ USACE cleanup.
- General objectives: maintain USG gag order over Israeli nuclear weapons.

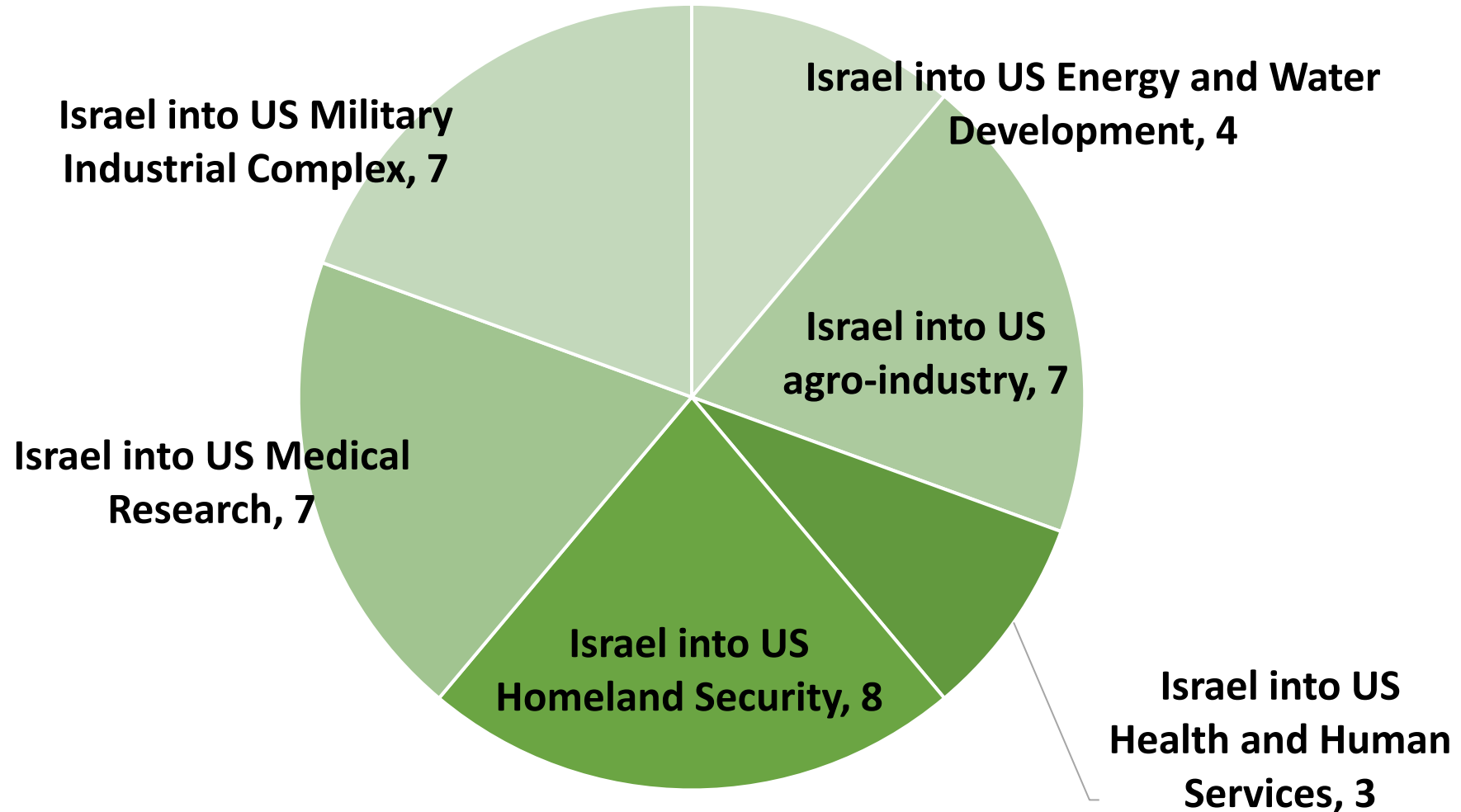


# Israel Primacy - AIPAC Direct Lobbying

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- FY 21 - Agriculture Appropriations Bills



# **AIPAC Israel Direct Lobbying by Sub-Category – Entanglement – 22%**

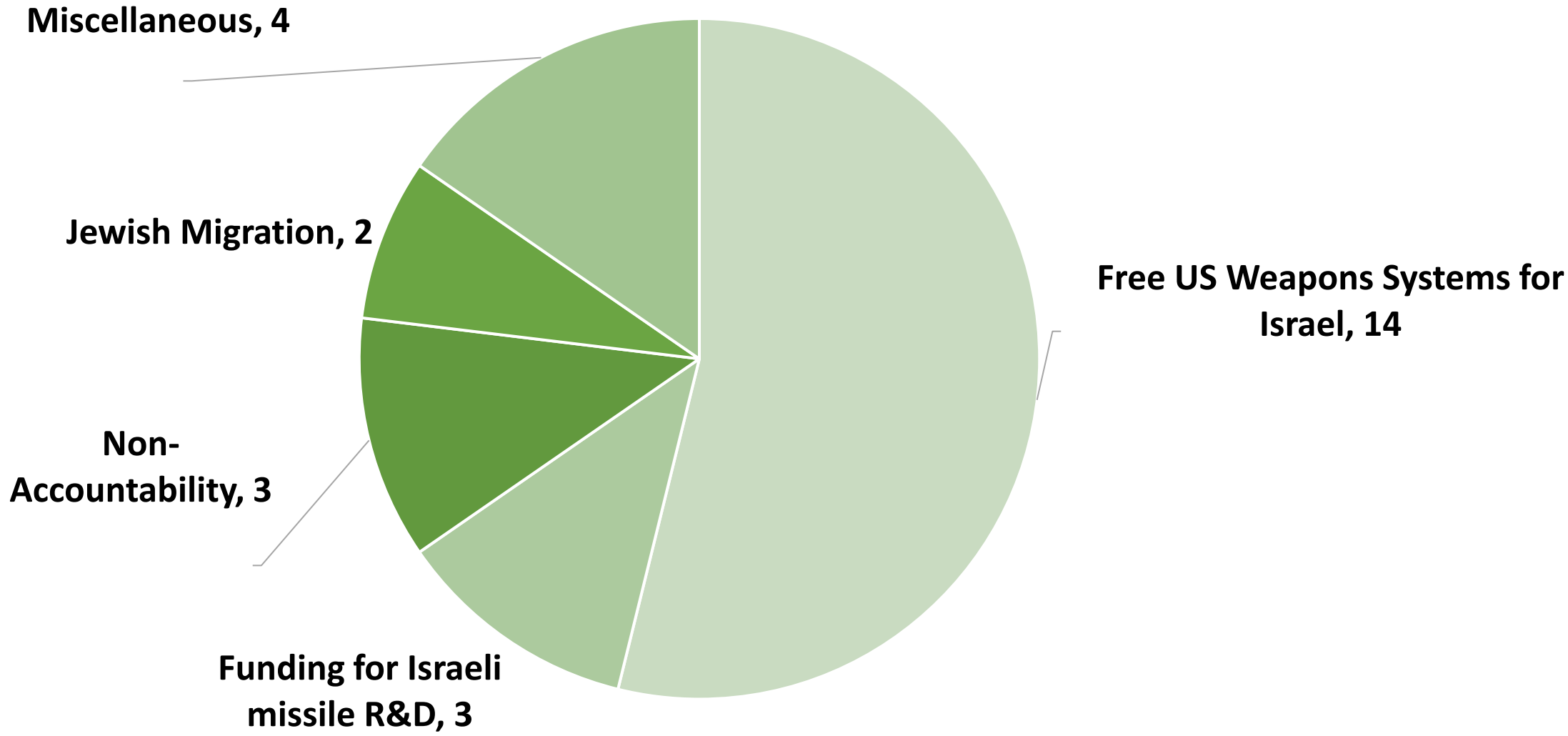


# Entanglement/Infiltration

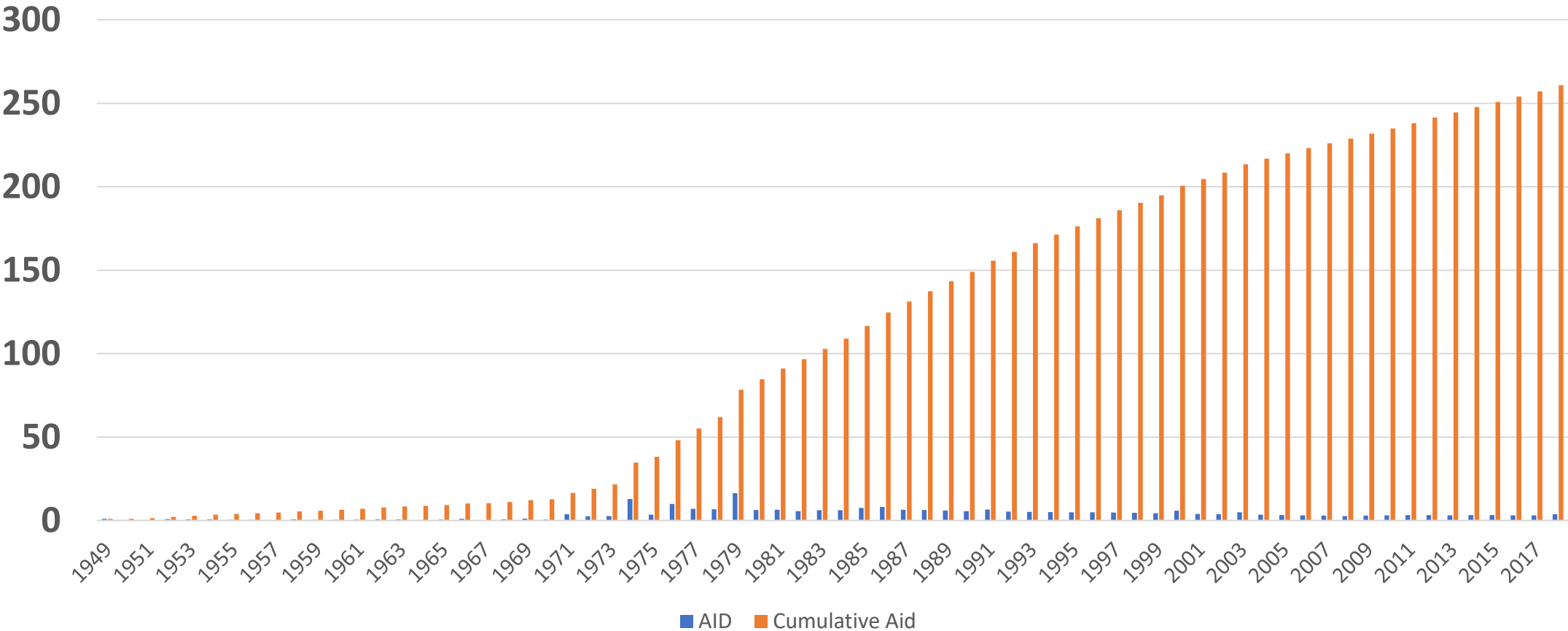
## -AIPAC Direct Lobbying

- Infiltrate Israel as “key ally” in “rivalry” between US, China and Russia.
  - H.R.7148 - United States-Israel Military Capability Act of 2020:
  - S.3775 - United States-Israel Military Capability Act of 2020
- Infiltrate Israel into
  - S.2470 - Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act
- Infiltrate Israeli companies into US directed energy R&D
  - H.R.1795 - U.S.-Israel Directed Energy Cooperation Act
- FY 21 U.S. - Israel Homeland Security Cooperation Programs
- Infiltrate Israeli gov’t and industry into Covid-19, PTSD and medical research
  - S. 3722 - Expanding Medical Partnerships with Israel to Lessen Dependence on China Act (EMPIL-DOC Act)
  - H.R.5605 - United States-Israel PTSD Collaborative Research Act
  - H.R. 6829 - Expanding Medical Partnerships with Israel to Lessen Dependence on China Act (EMPIL-DOC Act)

# AIPAC Israel Direct Lobbying by Sub-Category – Subsidies – 21%



# Cumulative *Publicly Known* U.S. Foreign Assistance to Israel 1949-2019 (\$260.9 billion)



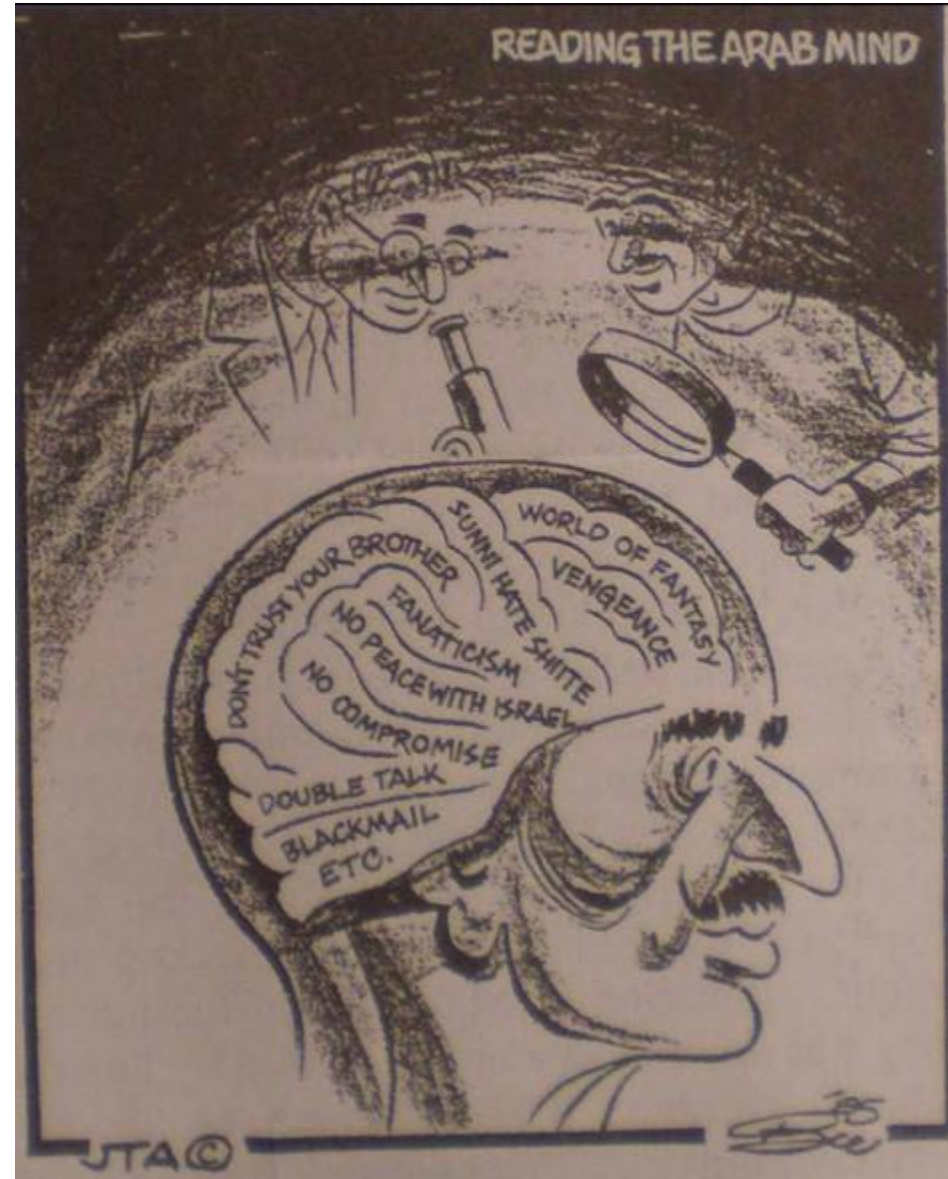
U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel, Jeremy M. Sharp, Congressional Research Service, April 10, 2018  
acknowledged, cumulative, inflation adjusted.

# Subsidies — AIPAC Direct Lobbying

- FY 20 U.S. - Israel Defense Cooperation Assistance
- H.R. 1837 - United States-Israel Cooperation Enhancement and Regional Security Act
- H.R. 5063 - United States-Israel Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems Cooperation Enhancement Act
- H.R.2968 - Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2020
- S. 3176 - United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2020

# Propaganda — AIPAC Direct Lobbying

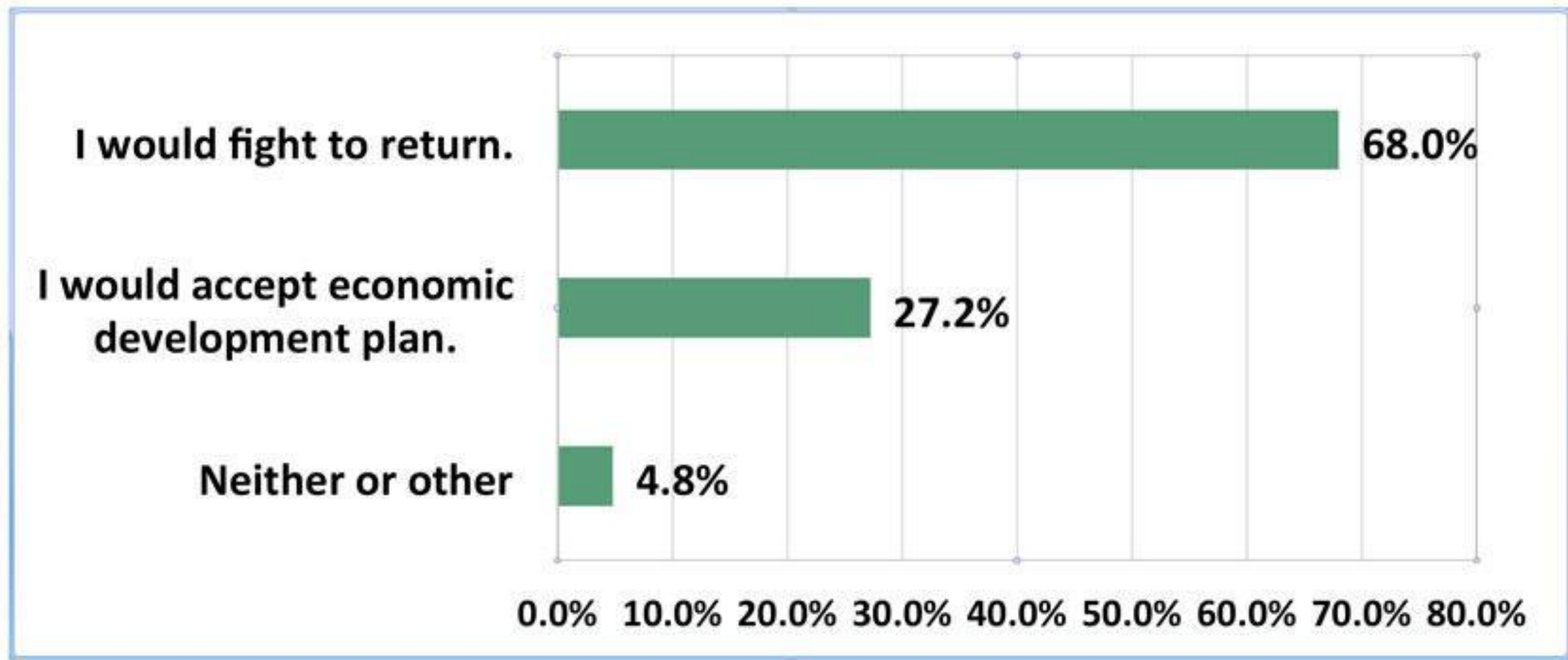
- S.852 - Anti-Semitism Awareness Act of 2019
  - Redefine anti-Semitism to include criticism of Israel
- H.R.2740 - Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Defense, State, Foreign Operations, and Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2020
  - Influence US Agency for Global Media
- H.R.2343 - Peace and Tolerance in Palestinian Education Act
  - De-Nakba Palestinian education for a more Zionist friendly narrative.
  - Encumber US State Department with monitoring responsibilities





# Foreign Coercion — AIPAC Direct Lobbying

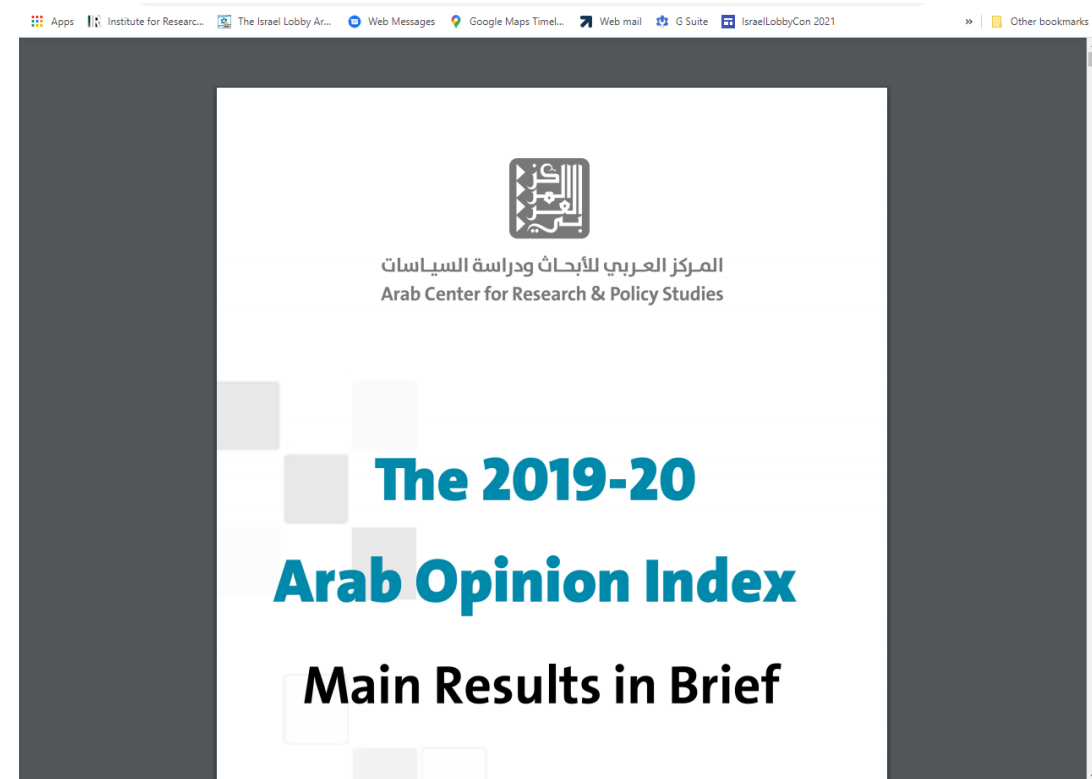
- H.Res.1110 - Supporting the announcements of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the United Arab Emirates and the State of Israel and the Kingdom of Bahrain, and for other purposes.
- S.Res.709 - A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the August 13, 2020, and September 11, 2020, announcements of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the United Arab Emirates and the State of Israel and the Kingdom of Bahrain are historic achievements.
- S.4482 - Strengthening Reporting of Actions Taken Against the Normalization of Relations with Israel Act of 2020
- S. Res. 120 - A resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel.



*IRmep Poll: If you were expelled & resettled into a resource restricted area, would you fight to return or forfeit legal claims for a new life under a promised economic development plan?*  
*SOURCE: IRmep representative poll of 1,450 American adults fielded through Google Surveys on July 11-21, 2019.*

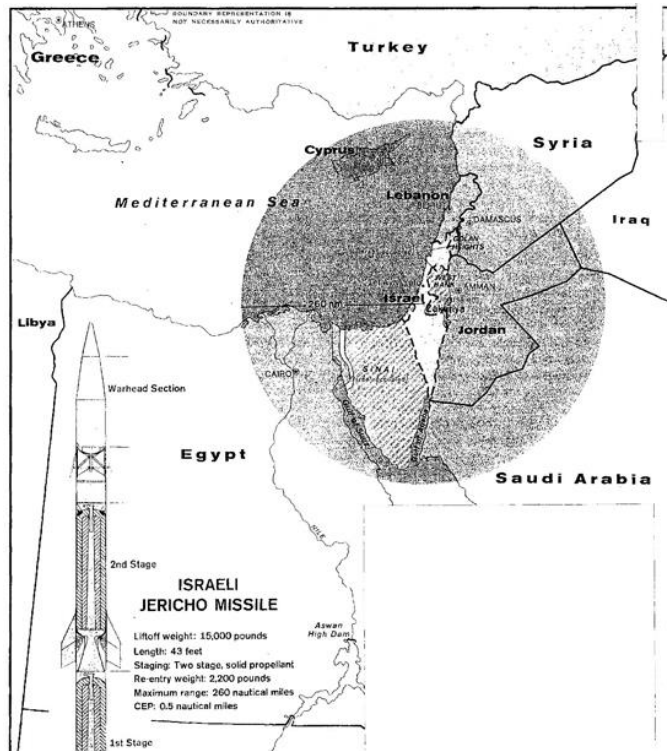
# Arab Public Opinion: Anti “normalization”

- 88% of citizens refuse to recognize the state of Israel, citing political reasons as opposed to religious or cultural ones.
  - The majority of Saudi citizens reject recognition of Israel.
- 91% of Arabs believe that financial and administrative corruption is present in their country to varying degrees.
- 76% of Arabs support a democratic system.
- 74% of Arabs stated that a pluralist democratic system would be appropriate for their countries.



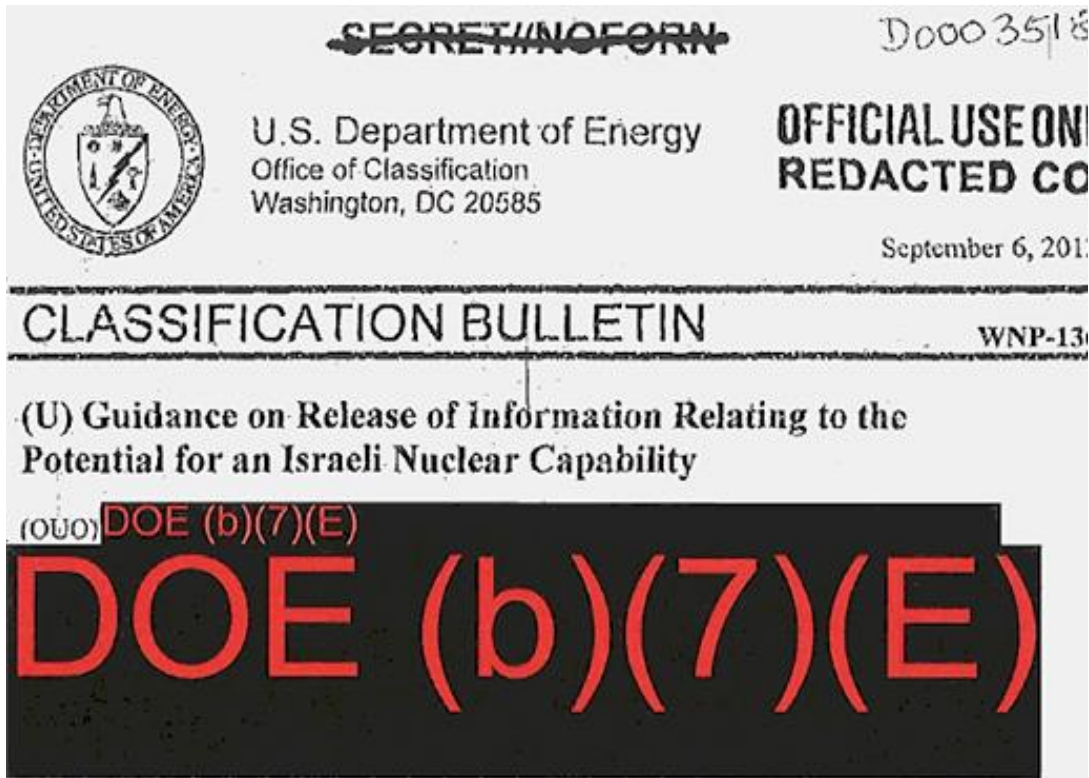
*2019-2020 Arab Public Opinion Index – Poll of 28,288 respondents in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania. Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies, Doha, Qatar*

# For Israel's Nuclear Weapons Program — AIPAC Direct Lobbying



- H.R.2839 - Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2020
- H.R.7608 - State, Foreign Operations, Agriculture, Rural Development, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2021
- S.2583 - Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2020
  - Coerce IAEA to accept Israel as a bona fide participant, and not the Middle East's leading state sponsor of nuclear proliferation

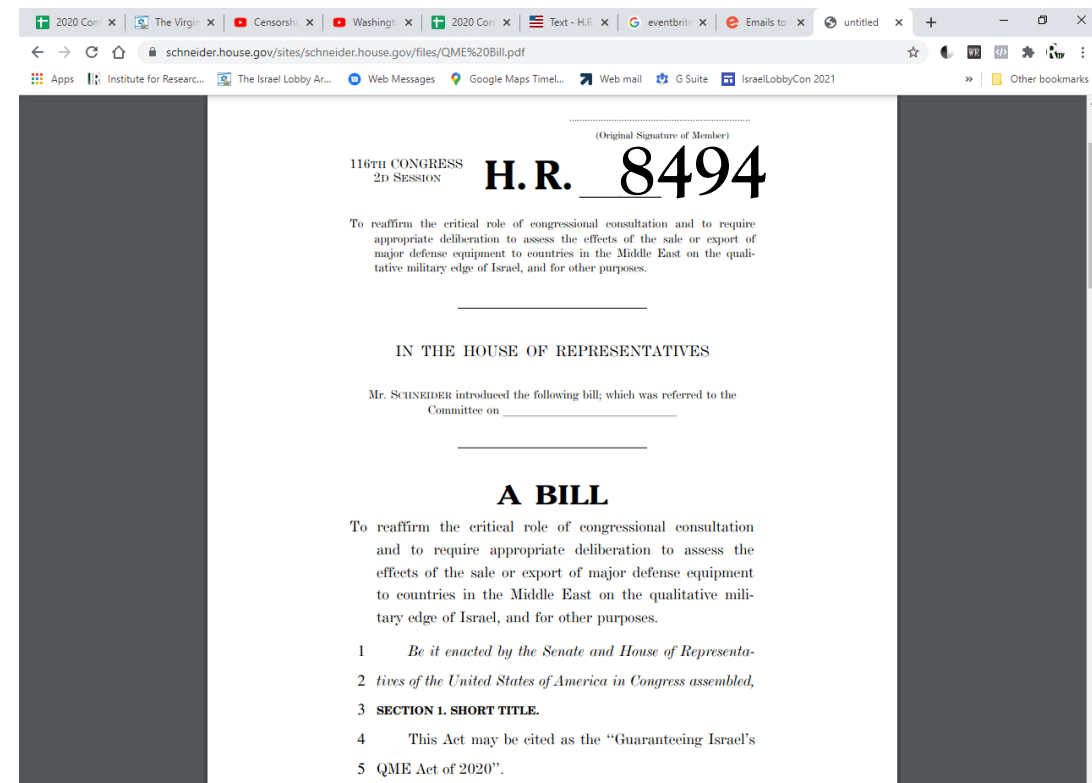
# After the Israeli theft of US nuclear material from NUMEC...



- Senators Symington and Glenn passed 1970s laws banning U.S. economic, and military assistance, and export credits to countries that deliver or receive, acquire or transfer nuclear enrichment technology when they do not comply with IAEA regulations and inspections.
- Israel and the lobby have successfully pressured presidents Clinton through Trump to sign secret letters pledging not to enforce the law.
- The Obama administration implemented rules making it illegal for any government official or contractor to discuss or release information about Israel's nuclear weapons.

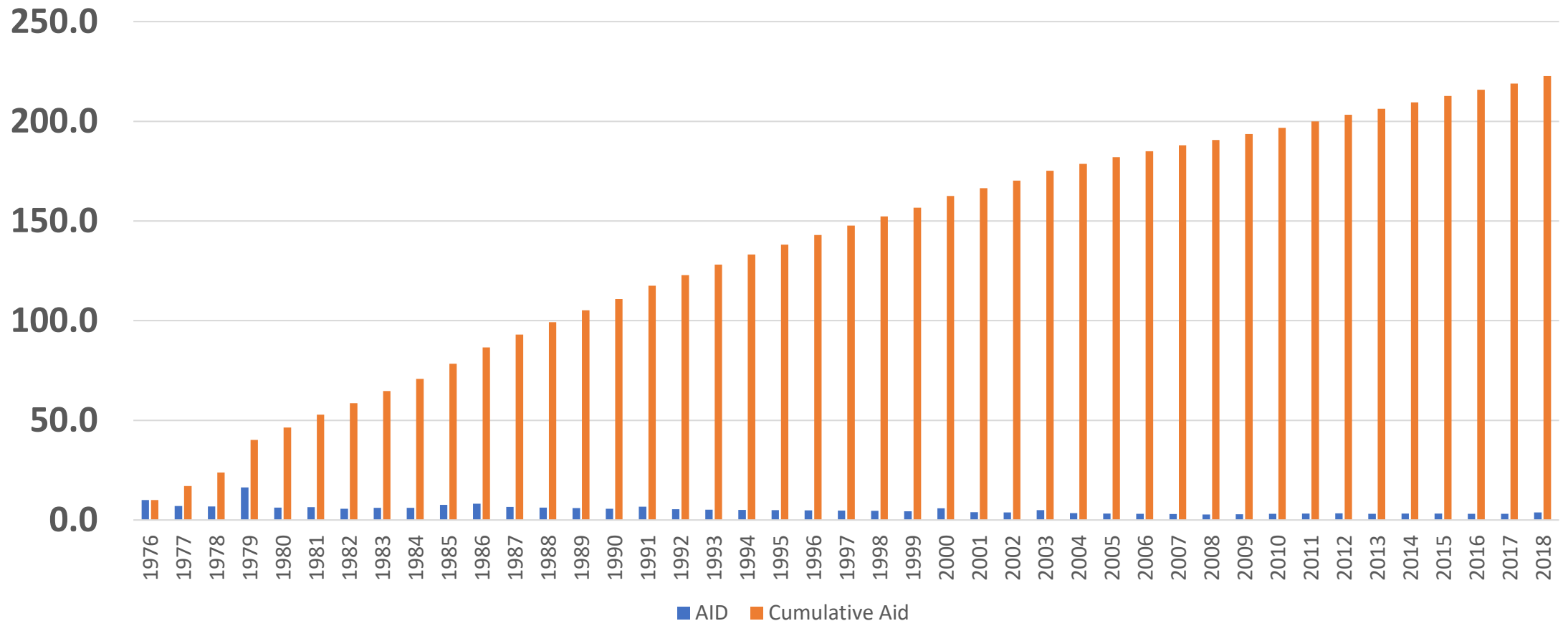
# HR8494 “Guaranteeing Israel’s QME Act of 2020”

“(4) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The President shall seek to consult with appropriate officials 3 of the Government of Israel for information regarding Israel’s qualitative military edge before making 5 a determination under paragraph (1). “



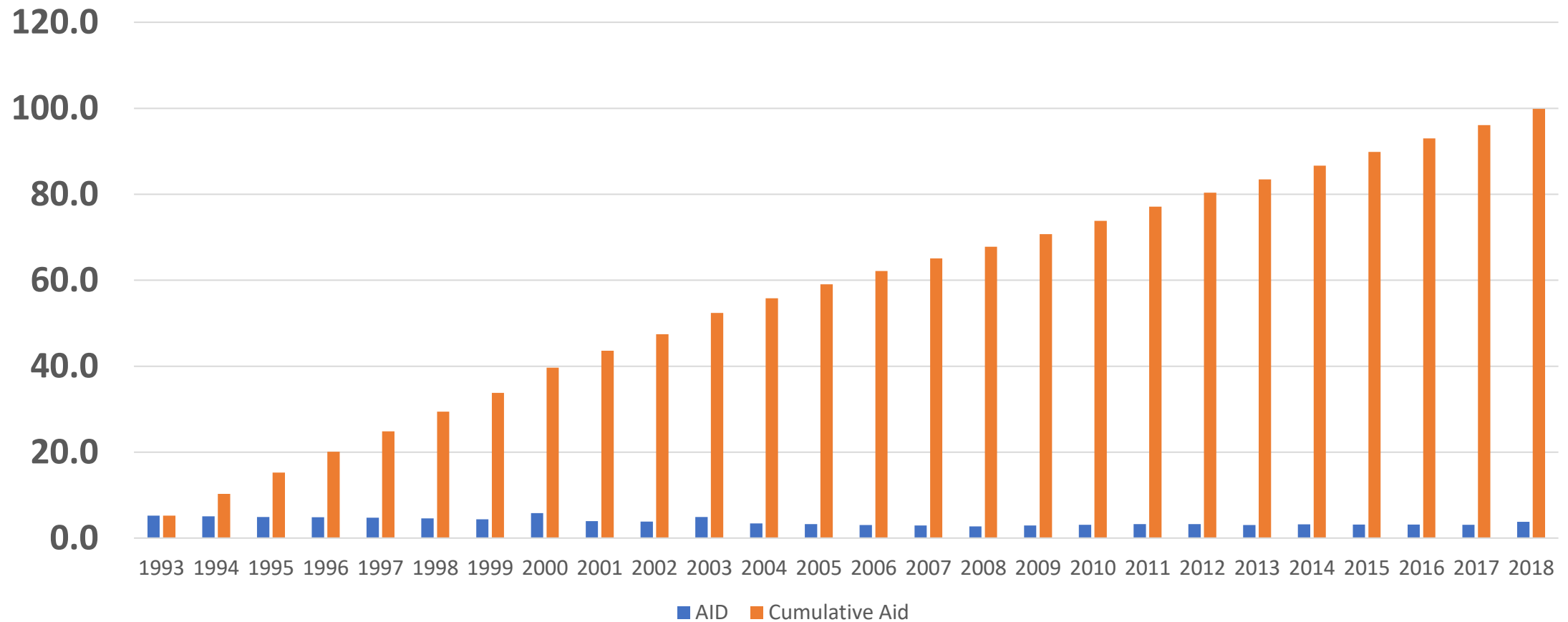


# Known U.S. Foreign Assistance to Israel Since Passage of Symington & Glenn 1976-2019 (\$228.8 billion)



U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel, Jeremy M. Sharp, Congressional Research Service, April 10, 2018  
acknowledged, cumulative, inflation adjusted.

# Known U.S. Foreign Assistance to Israel Since Clinton-Trump “nuclear ambiguity” policy maintenance letters 1993-2019 (\$99.9 billion)



U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel, Jeremy M. Sharp, Congressional Research Service, April 10, 2018  
acknowledged, cumulative, inflation adjusted.



## In summary

- US aid to Israel has long been illegal under the Arms Export Control Act.
- It takes top to bottom corruption, propaganda and entanglement to unlawfully deliver that aid.
- The Israel lobby increasingly wants a law for “veto power” over U.S. sovereign decisions while entangling Israel into key sectors.



# But what if the Israel lobby became part of the government?

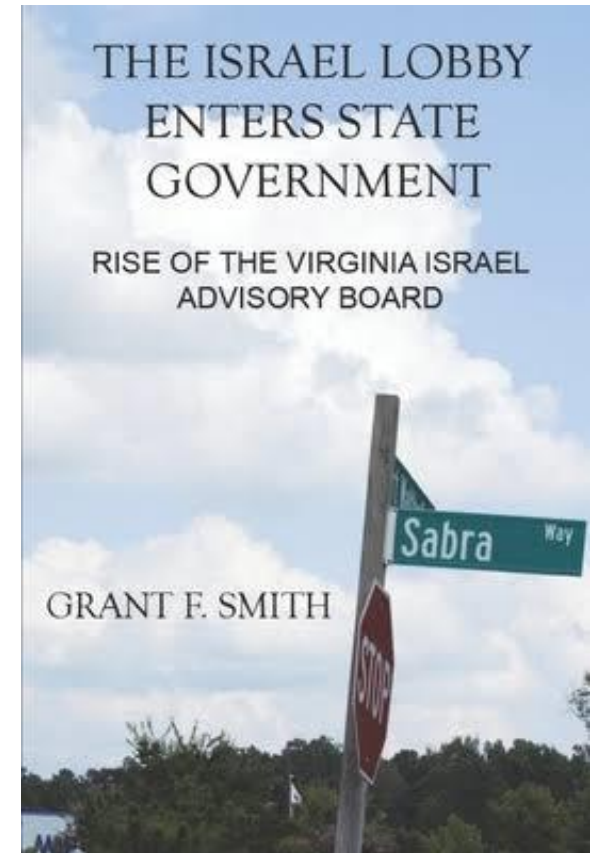
- Not just created by and staffed with handpicked political appointees like OTFI.
- Not just unduly influenced like the White House and Congress.
- But actual US government agencies created to do Israel's bidding?



# The newest Israel lobby state-level initiative

Entire government agencies created solely to promote Israel.

***....coming soon to your state?***





# The Virginia Israel Advisory Board

- Launched by Eric Cantor in 1996
- Scours Virginia state funding pools for grants, loans and other support exclusively to Israel companies.
  - Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority
  - Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund
  - Virginia Economic Development Partnership
- Scours Federal funding sources for
  - Research grants
  - Tax Credits
- Subsidy-powered takeover of Virginia and US competitor market share



# What is VIAB? What VIAB really does:

- Israeli export promotion council
  - Connects Israeli companies to VA state funding sources
  - Engaging consultants to perform market entry strategy
  - Launch new operations to compete against state and US competitors.
  - Tap other government entities for support.
  - Assumption: Israeli companies inherently have a lot to offer.
- Consolidates the most active Israel lobbying groups – the local Jewish federations - into VIAB board slots (4 by statute)
  - Large state political campaign contributors
  - VIAB has involved other large contributors to the Governor on Israel missions to pressure signing MOU's and commercial deals
- Connects Israel lobbying initiatives inside and outside state government
  - Federations backing it working on changes to state K-12 textbooks
  - Anti-1<sup>st</sup> Amendment state resolutions and laws
  - Cross-promotion of fellow VIAB board members like Eileen Filler-Corn.
- Drafts other state agencies to become appendages of Israeli business interests
  - Virginia Tech – Sabra Dipping Company MOU.

**One board member  
from “...each of the  
four Jewish  
Community  
Federations serving  
the Richmond,  
Northern Virginia,  
Tidewater, and  
Peninsula regions...”**

CHAPTER 697

Virginia State Law

# Virginia Jewish federation fundraising, employees and volunteers...tie to donors.

Federation	Revenues (million)	Employees	Volunteers
Jewish Community Federation of Richmond (Figures include the co- located Richmond Jewish Foundation)	\$7.2	19	158
Jewish Community Relations Council and Federation of Greater Washington.	\$15.2	35	2,860
United Jewish Federation of Tidewater (Virginia Beach)	\$7.3	5	0
United Jewish Community of The Virginia Peninsula (Newport News, figures include endowment.)	\$3.9	74	55
Total	\$33.6	133	3,073

# VIAB BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT TOTAL VIRGINIA CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS



Appointment by	VIAB Board Member	Amount
House	Marcus M Weinstein	\$293,050
Designated Member	Michael J Schewel	\$156,828
Governor	H Ronnie Montgomery	\$96,116
House	Mel Chaskin	\$77,640
Governor	Loren W Hershey	\$73,360
House	M Scott Goodman	\$69,500
Governor	Karen G Jaffe	\$65,149
Designated Member	Patrick O Gottschalk	\$62,564
Governor	William J Kilberg	\$62,088
Governor	Samuel A Simon	\$57,423
Governor	Mark B Sisisky	\$53,150
Governor	Jay M Ipson	\$48,037
Governor	Charles Lessin	\$40,293



# Case Study Appalachian Biofuels LLC in 2014

- Proposed refinery in St. Paul Virginia.
- Transbiodiesel technology/industrial process/enzymes (Israel)
- Forecast 40 new jobs for Russell County
- Loans
- Grants
- Upgrades
- Launch party starring Gov McAuliffe at Bush Furniture building in St Paul, VA
- Chuck Lessin, VIAB vice chair, owner of "Appalachian Biofuels LLC."





# State subsidies sought by Appalachian Biofuels LLC

- \$250k Tobacco Commission Grant through Russell County Industrial Development Authority
- \$800k from the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority
- \$300k for rail access to connect the plant to railhead
- \$355k for “additional special project funds” from the Tobacco Commission





# Owner, Chuck Lessin VIAB Vice Chair

- “Pop’s Bingo World” proprietor  
No energy industry experience.
- Charitable bingo “maven” in  
South Richmond.
- The Jerusalem Connection
  - 501(c)(3) charity
  - Mission: “help to combat the  
worldwide problem of assimilation.”
  - Grants to Birthright Israel
  - \$40 million in revenues











# Appalachian Biofuels LLC by 2019

- No refinery in St. Paul Virginia.
  - Former furniture facility still looking for tenants.
- FOIA research/implicit lawsuits:
  - \$210,000 in development funds never paid back.
- 990 research Jerusalem Connection
  - \$339,358 in funds allegedly improperly removed from “Jerusalem Connection” to cover Appalachian Biofuels business losses.







# Appalachian Biofuels was supposed to fully repay grants, but didn't because two VA Gov't officials colluded...

The Honorable Terry G. Kilgore  
Chairman

The Honorable Frank M. Ruff  
Vice Chairman



701 E. Franklin Street, Suite 501  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

804-225-2027 [ Phone ]  
1-877-807-1086 [ Toll Free ]  
804-786-3210 [ Fax ]  
www.tic.virginia.gov

## TOBACCO REGION REVITALIZATION COMMISSION

August 5, 2019

Mr. Charles Lessin  
6500 Patterson Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23226

**Re: Tobacco Regional Opportunity Fund Performance Agreement  
Dated 08/4/14 among the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission,  
Russell County IDA and Appalachian Biofuels, LLC. (#2941)**

Dear Mr. Lessin,

In 2014, a grant from the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC) Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund (TROF) was provided to your company, Appalachian Biofuels LLC (the "Company") to manufacture biodiesel in Russell County, Virginia (project # 2941). The TROF grant in the amount of \$565,000 was provided prior to performance based upon the promise of 40 new jobs. The promised capital investment was \$3,500,000. The period of performance was for 3 years from June 30, 2014 – June 30, 2017. The grant was disbursed in two installments, \$210,000 in September 2014 and \$355,000 in December 2014. The first installment of \$210,000 was invested in project-related costs and the second installment of \$355,000 was reserved in an escrow account.

In 2016, the Commission was notified that the project was not moving forward due to a drastic decline in world oil prices. In early 2017 the Commission notified the Company that the full grant amount of \$565,000 must be repaid for failing to meet the performance obligations. In early January 2018, the Commission's Executive Committee considered an appeal from the Company to reduce the clawback amount. After consideration, the Executive Committee declined to reduce the clawback and requested that the Company work with TRRC staff to develop a repayment plan. On January 22, 2018 the Company repaid the \$355,000 leaving \$210,000 to be repaid to the Commission.

In a February 2018 meeting with between TRRC staff and yourself, it was agreed that in your capacity as a member of the Virginia Israel Advisory Board, over a two-year period, you would work to meet the performance metrics promised as part of project 2941 (40 new jobs, capital investment of \$3.5M) to the Commission's footprint.

In July 2019, at the request of TRRC staff you provided a detailed confidential listing of the projects you have (and continue to be) involved with that are within the Commission footprint. After reviewing the locations, capital investment and jobs provided with these projects, TRRC staff can confirm that you have fully met the employment and capital investment obligations as agreed and the project can be closed. Thank you for your partnership with the Commission and please be in touch should you have any follow up questions.

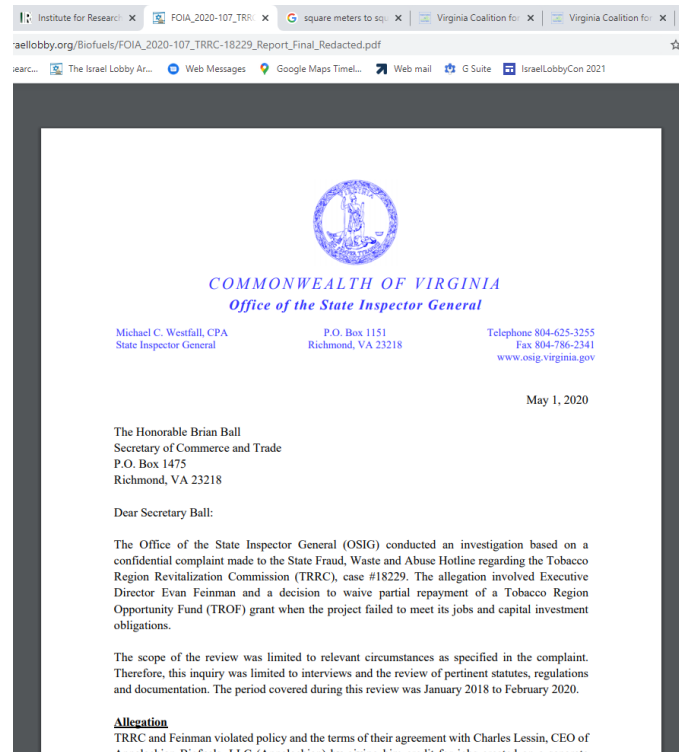
Sincerely,

Evan Feldman  
Executive Director

CC: File  
Russell County IDA c/o Ernest McFaddin

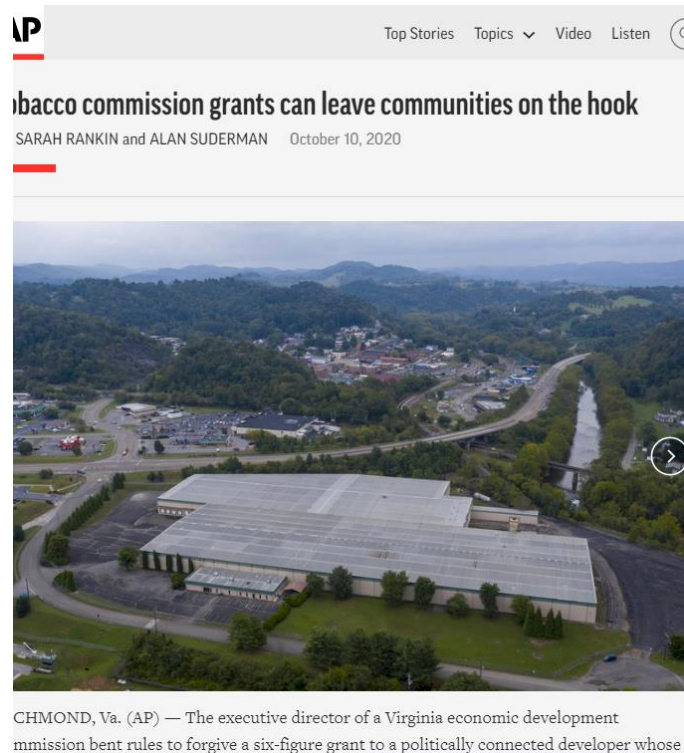
# There have been no consequences.....Yet, but there has been a bit of reporting.

# Office of the Inspector General



- Whistle blower complaint.
- Investigation
- Partial finding of wrongdoing
- But it missed:
  - That “project substitution” to meet performance targets is forbidden.
  - Most of the projects listed as substitutes were not in operation.

# AP report



- “TROF’s Evan Feinman let VIAB’s Chuck Lessin off the hook for grant repayment.
- Improperly counted VIAB projects to let him off the hook.”
- Portrayed as problem with Tobacco Commission grants and did not plumb VIAB’s inherent conflicts.

7/22/19

Chuck Lessin

## Recent contributions to the Commonwealth of Virginia

<i>Company</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Cap Ex</i>	<i>Jobs</i>	<i>Announce</i>
Oran Safety Glass	Greensville County	Factory Expansion	\$6.5 million	55	Finalized
			\$30.4 million	29	
			\$52.2 million	178	
Energix	Prince George County	19.7 MW, Solar Field	.75 million	15 (Permanent)	
Energix	Appomattox County	15.7 MW, Solar Field	\$25 million	30 (10 months)	Nov. 2019
Energix	Chesapeake	32 MW, Solar Field	\$20 million	30 (10 months)	Nov. 2019
			\$45 million	50 (10 months)	Nov. 2019
			\$100 million	70 (10 months)	
			\$100 million	70 (10 months)	
Energix	Henry / Pittsylvania	65 MW, Solar Field	\$100 million	70 (10 months)	2020
Energix	Campbell County	60 MW, Solar Field	\$90 million	60 (10 months)	2020
			\$45 million	40 (10 months)	
Energix	Wytneville	20 MW, Solar Field	\$25 million	30 (10 months)	2020
TOTAL CAP EX:		\$639.85 million			
TOTAL JOBS:		727 jobs			

CONFIDENTIAL



# UNHCR designation in February

- Energix Renewal Energies, Ltd listed by UNHCR as a Category G company in occupied territories.
- “Business enterprises that are physically located on land in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.”
- “Benefit commercially from the use of natural resources located in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.”



Entrance to the Meitarim solar field | South Hebron, – occupied West Bank  
| 9 November 2016 | Photo by Dror Etkes

The field was constructed in November 2015 and is located in the South Hebron Hills in the West Bank east of the Palestinian displaced village of Khirbet Zanuta. While the settlement industrial zone has been expanding through production sites of steel, cosmetics and construction materials, and now a 5 MW solar field, the surrounding Palestinian villages in Mount Hebron have been suffering from forcible displacement, demolitions, lack of basic services and overall economic strangulation.



The Meitarim solar field | South Hebron, – occupied West Bank  
| 9 November 2016 | Photo by Dror Etkes

# Energix in the Golan Heights

- In 2015 Energix contracted the construction and owns a 155 MW wind turbine facility in the Israeli occupied Golan Heights.
- Reportedly using questionable methods in obtaining “access to the land from its indigenous Syrian-Druze owners, and in violation of international law.”
- Non-disclosure in VA filings.
- **VIAB pride in Energix’s Golan activities led to the code name?**



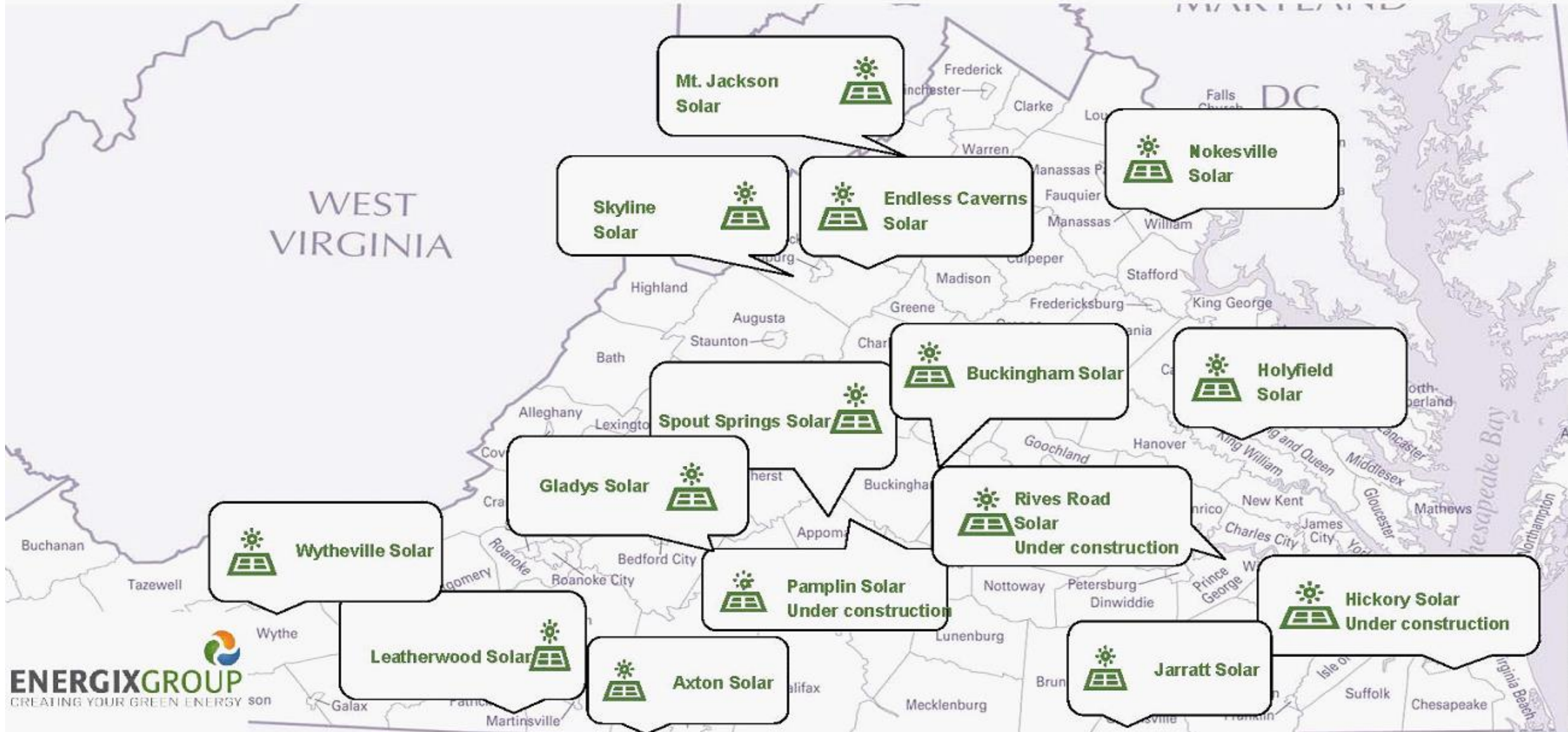
"**Project Turbine** – A multi-billion-dollar Israeli real estate and renewable energy concern with significant properties in D.C. and Northern Virginia is developing several solar energy sites in Virginia to produce electricity. Expanding renewable energy capacity is a requirement of major data centers to locate in Virginia."



**UNCONFIRMED**

## Energix Projects in Virginia

More than 700 hundreds of Megawatts in Development and Construction



# VIAB Case Study: code-named “Project Turbine”

- More self-dealing – VIAB southwest regional coordinator Aviva Fry represents the Israeli company Energix in Virginia.
- Used VIAB status to meet with governor about Energix projects and seek regulator signoff.
- Energix utility-scale solar energy in a highly competitive VA market.
  - Axton (66 megawatts)
  - Gladys (60 megawatts)
  - Jarratt (82.5 megawatts)
  - Wytheville (20 megawatts)
  - Chesapeake (32 megawatts)

**From:** Aviva Frye <aviva@viab.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2018 8:24 AM  
**To:** Cary, David (GOV)  
**Subject:** Appointment with First Lady

Dear David:

I hope this email finds you doing well .

I would like to set an appointment to meet with the First Lady, if possible some time next week, to discuss through the Governor's Virginia Israel Advisory Board as well as the investments in Virginia by Energix renewable energy company, I run in the United States.

I can be reached at 276-451-4428 .

Thank you for your attention,

Aviva S. Frye  
Virginia Israel Advisory Bd  
SouthWest Coordinator

# US-Virginia Subsidies to Energix

- If Energix reached/reached its original estimated CAPEX for Virginia it would have received \$140 million
  - Morgan Stanley is the US “Tax Partner” turning Energix tax credits into investment cash.
  - This creates a “tax gap” for others to fill.
- Forgivable PPP loans (based on a claimed US headcount of 152 employees)
  - \$2-\$5 million (one-third of all the PPP forgivable loans in the \$350,000-and-above category given to Virginia solar companies.)
- In 2020, the Virginia Jobs Investment Program [announced it will subsidize](#) Energix's human resources costs to open its headquarters within an Alony-Hetz owned property in Arlington County.





# Case Study: Oran Safety Glass

- Oran safety glass formed in a kibbutz in central Israel in 1979 to manufacture “transparent armor.”
- VIAB brought Oran to Greenville Country Virginia near Emporia to manufacture in county-owned industrial park.
- Code-named “ballistic.”





# VA Subsidies to OSG 2007 – Location

2007 Location	
Facilities upgrade grants	Amount
Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund Grant	\$ 100,000
Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund Grant	\$ 125,000
Governor's Opportunity Fund - VEDP	\$ 125,000
Job creation and Training and Recruitment	\$ 250,000
Dept of Housing and Community Development Block Grant	\$ 125,000
Phase 1 Loans - Greenville County	
Virginia Small Business Finance Authority	\$ 400,000
Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative Loans	
Debt to build electricity connectivity to plant	\$ 400,000
Waived fees	
Water and Sewer connection	\$ 20,000
Building permit fee waiver	\$ 4,300
Total	\$ 1,549,300



# VA Subsidies to OSG 2009 – Expansion

<u>2009 Expansion</u>	
<b>Facilities upgrade grants</b>	
<b>Governor's Opportunity Fund - VEDP</b>	\$ 50,000
<b>Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund Grant</b>	\$ 100,000
<b>Virginia Jobs Investment Program Grant</b>	\$ 17,500
<b>Enterprise Zone Jobs Grant</b>	\$ 80,000
<b>Dept of Housing and Community Development Block Grant</b>	\$ 150,000
<b>Local Contribution for Community Development Block Grant</b>	\$ 50,000
<b>Waived fees</b>	
<b>Building permit fee waiver</b>	\$ 5,000
<b>Total</b>	\$ <b>452,500</b>



# VA Subsidies to OSG – 2017 Expansion

<u>2017 Expansion</u>	
Facilities expansion grants	
Governor's Opportunity Fund - VEDP	\$ 150,000
Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund Grant	\$ 235,000
Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund Loan	\$ 117,500
Total	\$ 502,500
Grand Total	\$ 2,504,300



# Contract fraud against US Army

- Delivered out-of-spec MRAP glass after low-balling US Army contracts
- Had to repay \$4.7m for delivering non-compliant product.
- Widespread use of temporary, rather than salaried, high paying jobs.
- Greenville County unable to determine if meeting grant performance metrics.

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NEWS ITEMS

## Oran Safety Glass Expands Greenville County, Virginia, Manufacturing Complex

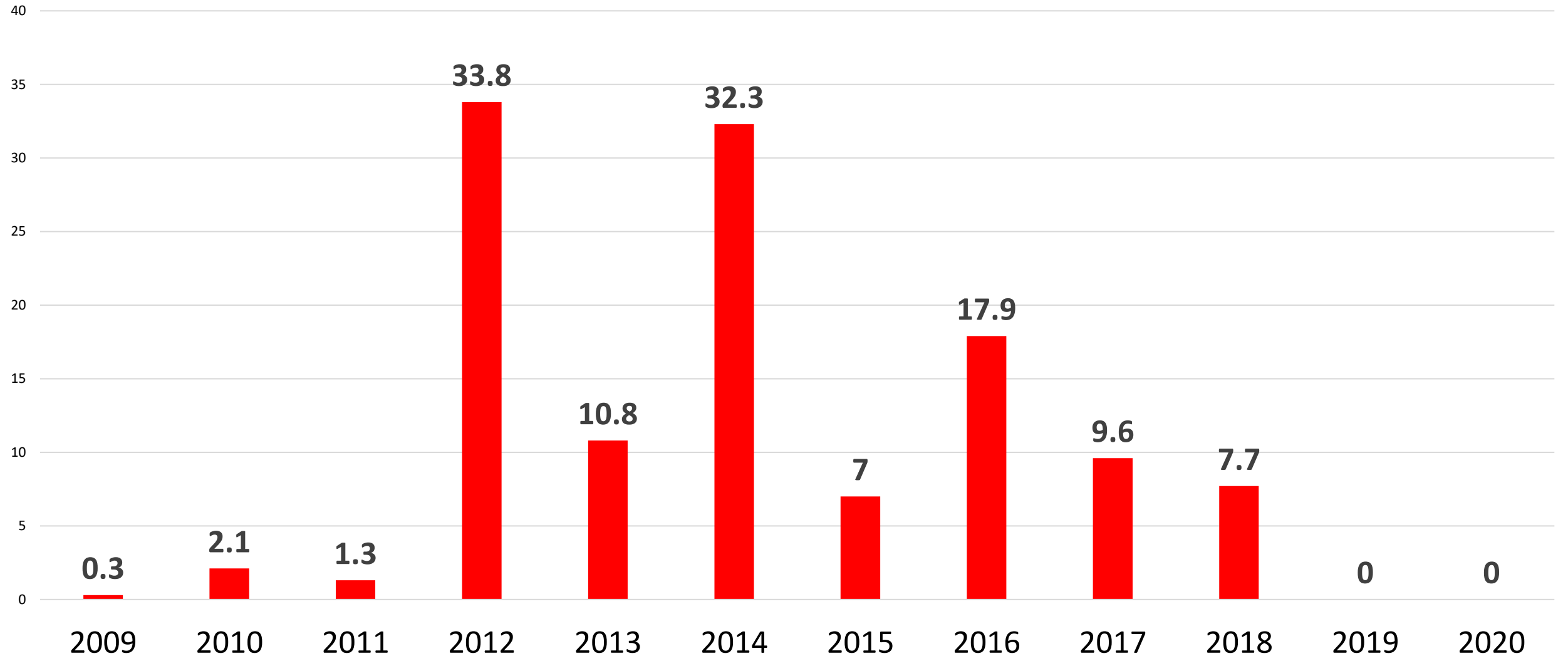
Area Development News Desk

NEWS ITEM

- Germi Green 02/25/20
- Clariv Arizona 02/24/20
- Eden Ogden 02/24/20
- Atlant Expan Head 02/21/20
- Niaga



# Yearly OSG revenue from U.S. government military contracts 2009-2018 (\$ million)



# Case Study: Project Jonah

- 120-acre fish farm project in Tazewell Co., Virginia (Richlands Wastewater Treatment Plant).
- “All board members are asked to refer to the project by this code name. Leaked information could jeopardize funding opportunities from the state.” – VIAB Board Meeting
- \$10 m VECEDA loan award.



- \$1.5 million Tobacco Commission development grant – 2015.
- \$1 million tax abatements.

# Why a Virginia location?

- Same latitude as a world-class, home grown tilapia fish farm called Blue Ridge Aquaculture.
- Producing four million pounds of tilapia
- Shipping 10-20 thousand pounds of live tilapia daily.
- Uses recirculating aquaculture technology
- “Recirculating aquaculture systems are the most environmentally friendly beneficial source of protein because of its relatively small ecological footprint.”
- Employee owned, not state subsidized.

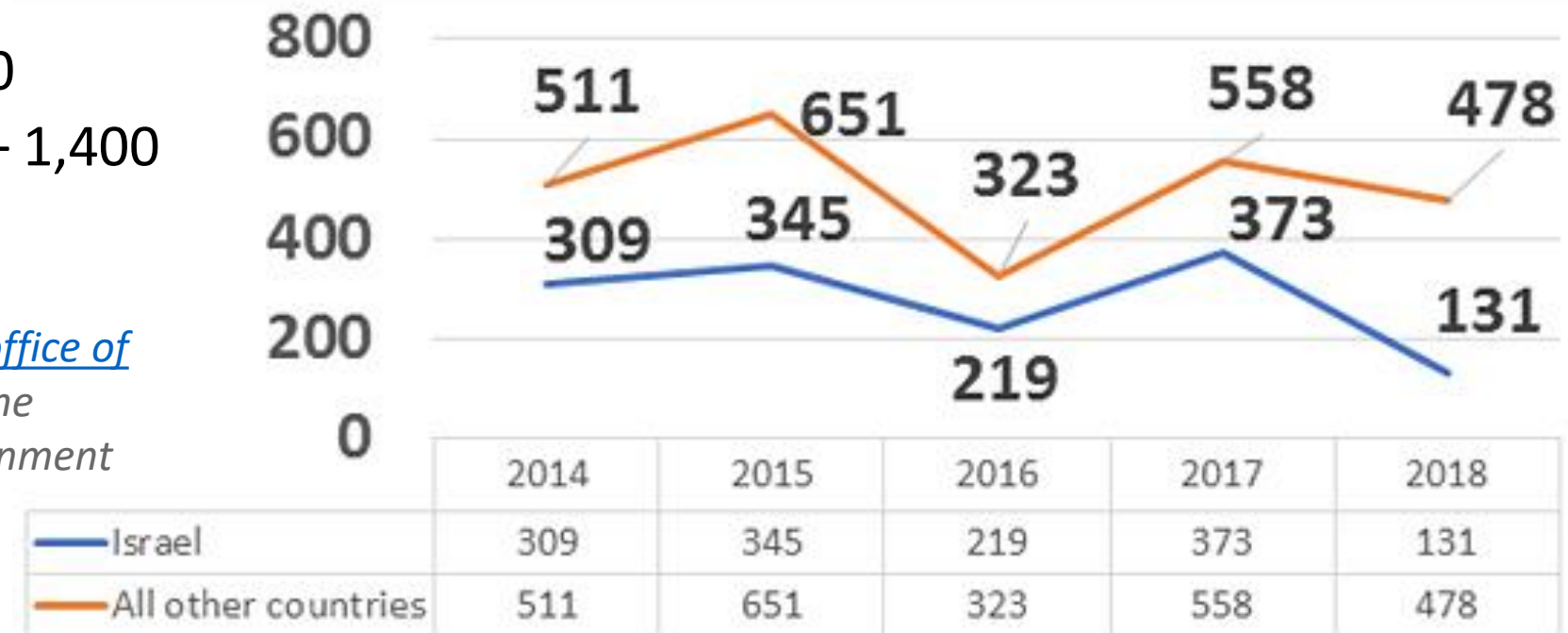


**Est. 1988**

# Started with an AIPAC Junket

- AIPAC selected Virginia Delegate Bill Morefield to travel on a delegation to Israel in 2015.
- Objective was to “learn more about” the possibilities of an aquaculture venture.
- One of every three members of Congress on a privately funded trip overseas goes to Israel.
- 2014-2018 trips = 2,500
- 2014-2018 Israel trips – 1,400

**Source:** [Travel Reports from the office of Clerk](#) mandated by Section 304 of the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007



## Currently...

- AquaMaof/VIAB wanted to seize Blue Ridge Aquaculture's already proven market, pivot to salmon.
- Tried to close on \$10m loan with no investment.
- Now promoters want to avoid paying back project grants, because they already spent the money but never had the skill to execute.
- Presenting "comfort letters" about hundreds of millions parked just offshore, almost ready to invest.

03 March 2020

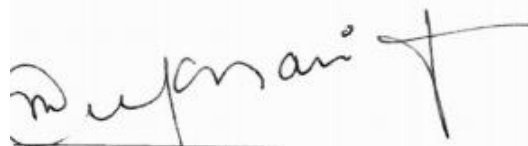
8F Aquaculture Fund I LP  
c/o 8F AM GP  
190 Elgin Avenue  
George Town  
Grand Cayman KY1-9007  
Cayman Islands

**Capital Commitment Proof Letter**

To Whom It May Concern:

We, Apex Fund Services (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., the fund administrator of 8F Aquaculture Fund I LP (the "Partnership") confirm that the Total Commitment of the Partnership is United States Dollar Three Hundred and Sixteen Million and Eight Hundred and Ten Thousand and Six Hundred and Fifty (US\$316,810,650) as at 03 March 2020 of which includes Capital Commitment of United States Dollar Seventeen Million and One Hundred and Eighty Six Thousand and Nine Hundred and Eighty Six (US\$17,186,986) relating to Limited Partners who will be admitted to the Partnership subject to satisfactory completion of Know Your-Customer and Anti Money Laundering checks and procedures.

Yours faithfully,

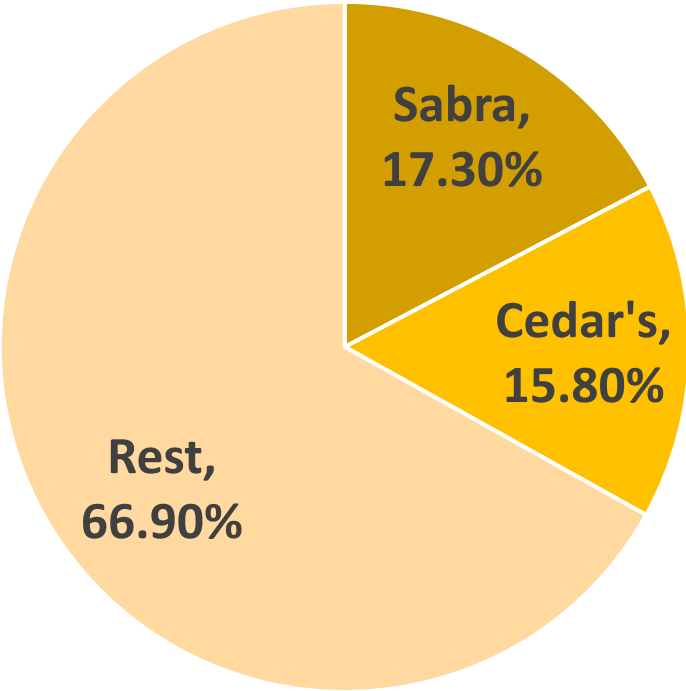


Name: Jaideep Mukhariya  
Title: Managing Director

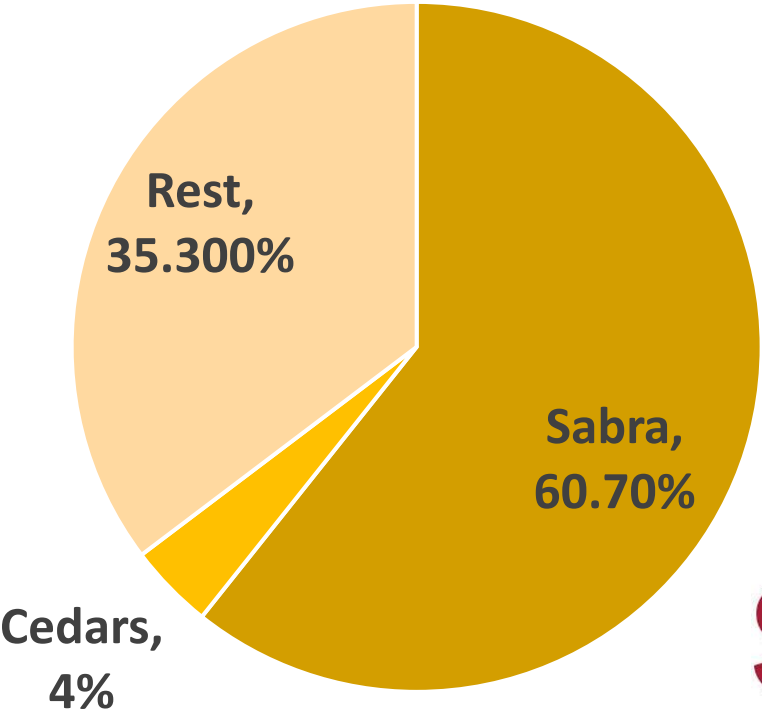


# Case Study: Sabra vs Cedars Hummus

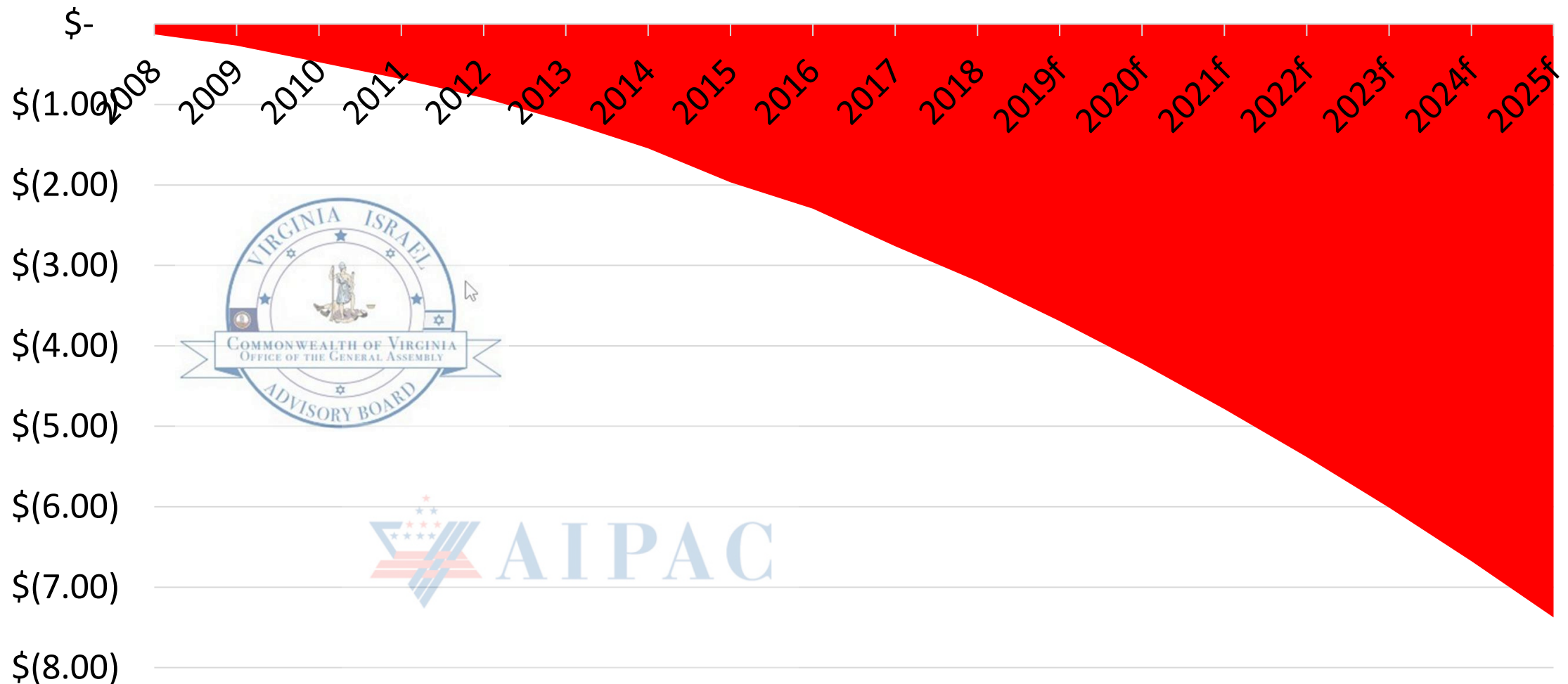
2006 US Hummus Market



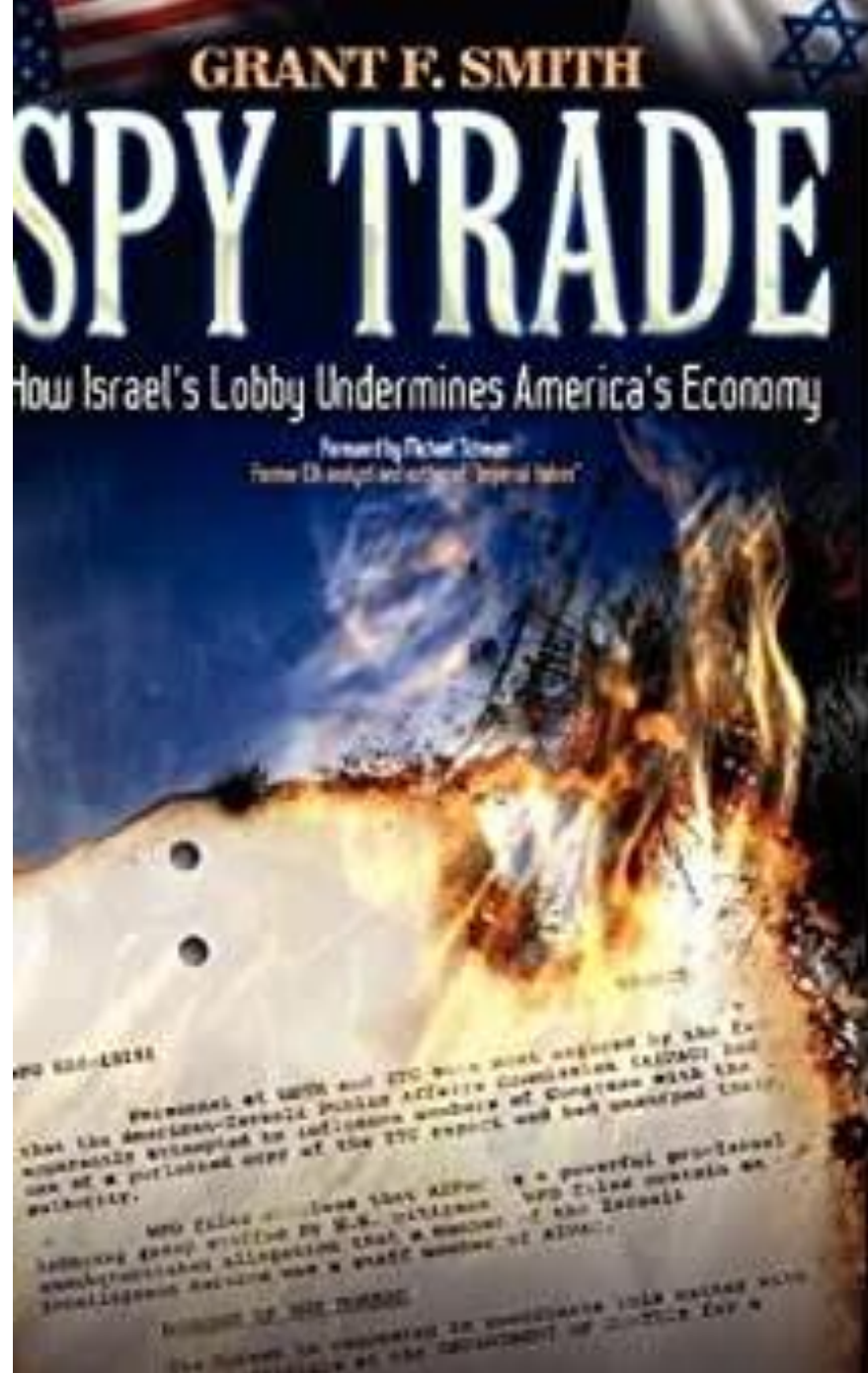
2015 US Hummus Market



# Projected Cumulative Virginia trade deficit in goods with Israel - 2008-2025F \$B







FOR RELEASE ON JUNE 20, 2019



## U.S. Israel Free Trade Agreement Damage Assessment

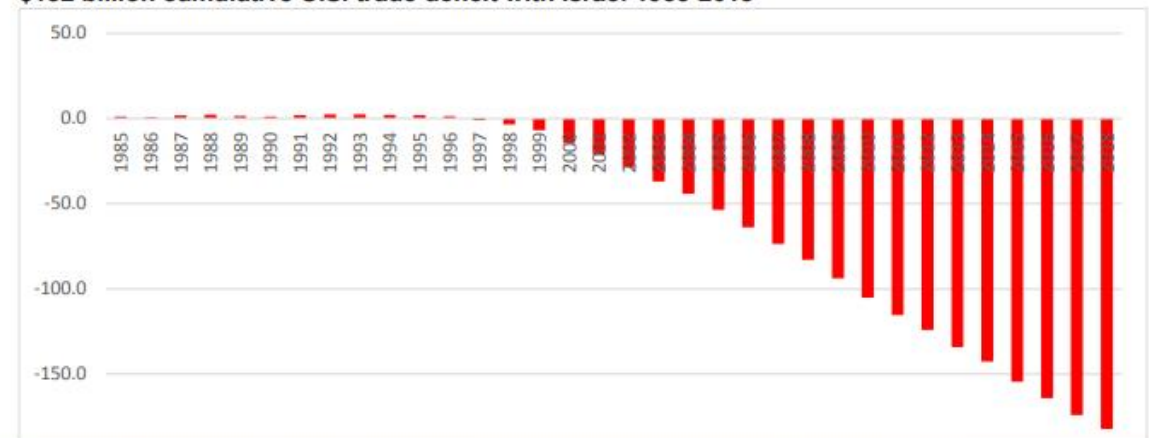
**Why has the Israel Free Trade Area Agreement (ILFTA) been so bad for America?  
Will Israel and its lobby advance even worse U.S.-Israel initiatives?**

[On this day 35 years ago](#) following bitter complaints by U.S. exporters, the FBI launched a counter espionage investigation targeting the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and the Israeli embassy. U.S. exporters at the time were near unanimously opposed to opening the vast U.S. market to Israeli exporters in exchange for limited, variable and tightly controlled U.S. access to Israel's tiny market.

AIPAC and Israel worked every angle to pass the 1985 U.S. Israel Free Trade Area Agreement (ILFTA). ILFTA was the first of a string of so-called "Free Trade Agreements." The joint effort by Israel and its lobby included stealing and using data provided in confidence by U.S. exporters to the International Trade Commission, which ITC had compiled into a classified report called "Probable Economic Effect of Providing Duty Free Treatment for U.S. Imports from Israel, Investigation No. 332-180."

By purloining and using the report against U.S. industry, and leveraging a vast coordinated political campaign contribution system, the Israel lobby won passage of ILFTA in 1985. ILFTA has produced a \$182.25 billion bilateral trade deficit in goods. This report examines why ILFTA is the worst performing bilateral FTA in terms of cumulative trade deficit, surpassed only by the multilateral NAFTA deal.

### \$182 billion cumulative U.S. trade deficit with Israel 1985-2018



- VIAB is a profit privatizer and loss socializing engine in Virginia.
- Key projects, like Jonah, are supported by AIPAC.
- VIAB obtains undue access for its portfolio of companies by getting funds and clearing regulatory hurdles from within government. Normal companies don't have that access.
- The small handful of insiders who profit, can reinvest the funds in campaign contributions to increase VIAB and AIPAC power and influence.
- Nearly impossible to discover if jobs and CAPEX performance targets were met.
- News media self-censorship.



Q&A time!