

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H. RES. 218  
OFFERED BY MS. ROS-LEHTINEN OF FLORIDA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the deep bond between the United States and Israel is exemplified by its many facets, including the robust economic and commercial relationship;

Whereas the first free trade agreement entered into by the United States was signed in 1985 with Israel;

Whereas the United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement established the Joint Committee to facilitate the agreement and collaborate on efforts to increase bilateral cooperation and investment;

Whereas since the signing of this agreement, two-way trade has multiplied tenfold to over \$40,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas Israel is the third largest importer of United States goods in the Middle East and North Africa region after Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, despite representing only 2 percent of the region's population;

Whereas nearly 40 percent of all investment in the United States from the Middle East and North Africa region comes from Israel;

Whereas Israel has more companies listed on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange than any other country except for the United States and China;

Whereas in 1956, the United States-Israel Education Foundation was established to administer the Fulbright Pro-

gram in Israel, and has facilitated the exchange of nearly 3,300 students between the United States and Israel since its inception;

Whereas, in 1972, the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation was established to promote scientific relations between the United States and Israel by supporting collaborative research projects in basic and applied scientific fields, and has generated investments of over \$480,000,000 to over 4,000 projects since its inception;

Whereas in 1977, the United States-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation was established to stimulate, promote, and support non-defense industrial research and development of mutual benefit to both countries in agriculture, communications, life sciences, electronics, electro-optics, energy, healthcare information technology, homeland security, software, water, and other technologies, and has provided over \$300,000,000 to over 700 joint projects since its inception;

Whereas in 1978, the United States-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund was established as a competitive funding program for mutually beneficial, mission-oriented, strategic and applied research of agricultural problems conducted jointly by United States and Israeli scientists, and has provided over \$250,000,000 to over 1,000 projects since its inception;

Whereas in 1984, the United States and Israel began convening the Joint Economic Development Group to regularly discuss economic conditions and identify new opportunities for collaboration;

Whereas, in 1994, the United States-Israel Science and Technology Foundation was established to promote the advancement of science and technology for mutual economic benefit and has developed joint research and development programs that reach 12 States;

Whereas the United States-Israel Innovation Index, which was developed by the United States-Israel Science and Technology Foundation to track and benchmark innovation relationships, ranks the United States-Israel innovation relationship as top-tier;

Whereas, since 2011, the United States Department of Energy and the Israeli Ministry of National Infrastructures, Energy, and Water Resources have led an annual United States-Israel Energy Meeting with participants across government agencies to facilitate bilateral cooperation in that sector;

Whereas, in 2012, Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed into law the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–150), which set United States policy to expand bilateral cooperation across the spectrum of civilian sectors, including high technology, agriculture, medicine, health, pharmaceuticals, and energy;

Whereas in 2013, President Obama said in reference to Israel’s contribution to the global economy, “That innovation is just as important to the relationship between the United States and Israel as our security cooperation.”;

Whereas, in 2014, Secretary of the Treasury Jacob Lew said, “As one of the most technologically-advanced and innova-

tive economies in the world, Israel is an important economic partner to the United States.”;

Whereas, in 2014, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–296), which deepened cooperation on energy, water, agriculture, trade, and defense, and expressed the sense of Congress that Israel is a major strategic partner of the United States;

Whereas the 2015 Global Venture Capital Confidence Survey ranked the United States and Israel as the two countries with the highest levels of investor confidence in the world; and

Whereas economic cooperation between the United States and Israel has also thrived at the State and local levels through both formal agreements and bilateral organizations in over 30 States that have encouraged new forms of cooperation in fields such as water conservation, cybersecurity, and alternative energy and farming technologies: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert the following:

- 1 That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) affirms that the United States-Israel economic
- 3 partnership has achieved great tangible and
- 4 intangible benefits to both countries and is a
- 5 foundational component of the strong alliance;
- 6 (2) recognizes that science and technology innovation
- 7 present promising new frontiers for United

1 States-Israel economic cooperation, particularly in  
2 light of widespread drought, cybersecurity attacks,  
3 and other major challenges impacting the United  
4 States;

5 (3) encourages the President to regularize and  
6 expand existing forums of economic dialogue with  
7 Israel and foster both public and private sector par-  
8 ticipation; and

9 (4) expresses support for the President to ex-  
10 plore new agreements with Israel, including in the  
11 fields of energy, water, agriculture, medicine,  
12 neurotechnology, and cybersecurity.

