

BOYCOTT IS FREE SPEECH

We, the undersigned, have united to protect Minnesotans' constitutional rights to free speech, including the right to boycott.

We represent organizations and constituent groups including proponents of civil rights, religious freedom for all, Palestinian rights, labor rights, and environmental justice.

We have joined together to urge the Minnesota State Legislature to REPEAL TWO STATE LAWS that require companies or individuals doing business with the state to certify that they will not initiate or participate in a boycott of Israel: Minnesota Statutes 3.226 and 16C.053, passed in 2017.

These laws are unconstitutional, as established by the 1982 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware Company*, which held that boycotts are a form of political speech, protected by the First Amendment. Requiring an individual or organization to certify that they do not and will not boycott Israel - or any other entity, for that matter - clearly infringes upon their First Amendment rights.

And in fact, the Minnesota DFL Party in its most recent platform (Item 101, adopted in 2026): "affirms its commitment to the First Amendment of the US Constitution which protects the right of free speech by including the repeal of the anti-boycott laws, Minnesota Statutes 3.226 and 16C.053."

Of particular concern is how these anti-boycott laws are now being used as templates to restrict the right to boycott a wide range of businesses and industries. Here in Minnesota, for example, bills were introduced in the 2025 legislative session to prohibit the issuance of state contracts or investment in companies that boycott energy production, agribusiness, mining, or the timber industry.

We are very concerned with this erosion of our civil liberties and urge the Minnesota legislature to repeal the anti-boycott laws now.

BACP-BLUE

Democratic Socialists of America Brainerd Lakes Area

Democratic Socialists of America Twin Ports

Code Pink Twin Cities

Community Members for Environmental Justice (CMEJ)

Coulee Region for Palestinian Rights

DFL Muslim Caucus

Educators for Justice in Palestine - UMN

Healthcare Workers for Palestine (HCW4P)

Inter Faculty Organization

Jewish Voice for Peace Twin Cities (JVP-TC)
Middle East Peace Now (MEPN)
Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers
MN BDS Community
MN Labor for Palestine (L4P)
National Lawyers Guild Minnesota
Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel
Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL)
Reviving the Islamic Sisterhood for Empowerment (RISE)
Macalester SJP - Mac4Palestine