

August 9, 2017

Mr. Bart Hamilton
Richland County Treasurer
50 Park Avenue East
Mansfield, Ohio 44902

Re: Baptists for Israel Institute supports investment of Israeli bonds by County Investment Board

Dear Treasurer Hamilton,

Our organization is committed to encouraging students to grow in their love for the land & people of Israel through education and experience. Our U.S. office is based in Ontario, Ohio and our students study and work as volunteers in Israel on a kibbutz beside the Sea of Galilee. We first began bringing students to Israel in 1974, but our compassion and concern for Israel has deep roots in Scripture.

It is our firm belief that our Heavenly Father promised Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3 that He would bless His people and the world through them.

Recently we were made aware that leading pastors of over forty (42) different local congregations in Richland County requested the County Investment Advisory Board to actively consider purchasing Israeli bonds at their next quarterly meeting.

For the record, the Baptists for Israel Institute is also formally requesting the County Investment Advisory Board actively consider purchasing Israeli bonds.

We are aware that Ohio State Treasurer Josh Mandel recently purchased a record \$ 61 million dollars' worth of Israeli bonds ¹, and the County Treasurers of both Cuyahoga and Summit Counties also purchased millions of dollars' worth of Israeli bonds. On top of that, the State Treasurer's office cites that nearly eighty municipal retirement portfolios invest in Israeli bonds.

Without a doubt, Israeli bonds have a successful track record; they are investment grade securities that are currently yielding between .60% and 1.47 % of US treasuries of like term as of July 2017. ^{2,3} Clearly, these bonds maintain a high credit rating and yield a competitive interest rate.

Based on these facts, we believe that the investment of Israeli Bonds can be a welcome addition to the diverse portfolio of Richland County investments.

Sincerely,

Loretta Hite
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Ontario, OH 44906
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Cc: Richland County Board of Commissioners
Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof
Ohio State Representative Mark Romanchuk

- 1 <https://www.onenewsnow.com/politics-govt/2017/04/26/ohios-investment-reflects-hope-support-for-israel>, viewed on July 29, 2017
- 2 <https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/data-chart-center/interest-rates/Pages/TextView.aspx?data=yield>, viewed on July 29, 2017
- 3 <http://www.israelbonds.com/Offerings-Rates/Current-Rates.aspx>, viewed on July 29, 2017