February 18, 2021

From the MN BDS Community

Dear Legislator:

The Minnesota Legislature will soon hear HF1246 and SF1039, to repeal two MN Statutes—3.226 and 16C.053—adopted in 2017 and known as the anti-Boycott laws. We believe you should support the repeal of these laws because:

- Boycott is an American tradition, going back to the Boston Tea Party and continuing into this century, as a non-violent means to protest perceived injustice. Examples of some famous boycotts are shown graphically on this page.

- The Supreme Court has recognized that politically motivated economic boycotts are constitutionally protected free speech. In *NAACP v Claiborne Hardware Company*, a 1982 unanimous Supreme Court ruling, the Court held that states may not prohibit peaceful politically motivated economic boycotts.

- MN Statutes 3.226 and 16C.053 are designed to stifle debate among Minnesotans. When it is more important than ever to speak to one another, these laws muzzle us.

- Similar laws in other states (Kansas, Arizona, Texas and recently Arkansas) have been successfully challenged and found unconstitutional.

For more information, contact mnforhumanrights@protonmail.com