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*Executive Vice President*

11 Tammuz 5785  
July 7, 2025

The Honorable Jim Risch  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Risch,

Please accept our sincere thanks for your recent condemnation of Ireland's Occupied Territories Bill, your recognition of the antisemitic hatred underlying that legislation, and your implied threat to Ireland's "deep and ongoing economic ties" with the United States.

First and foremost, you called the bill out for what it is. Taoiseach Micheál Martin's claim that the contemplated bill is not antisemitic is delusional.

After Jews were ethnically cleansed from areas of Judea and Samaria by Arab mobs in the early 20th Century, to call Jews "occupiers" when they return can only come from a place of bigotry. Similarly, given that the war in Gaza persists primarily due to the ongoing Hamas war crime of holding hostages, it requires disregard for Jewish lives to try to compel Israel to cease working militarily to free them. These things are obvious to the over 2,500 rabbis in our Rabbinic Circle, educated as we are in the long history of hate directed against our people. It is deeply heartening to hear a voice of moral clarity and support from a Senator from Idaho who clearly recognizes these truths as well.

More than this, you warned the Irish government that their racism would have real consequences. Too many are anxious to issue pro forma condemnations of antisemitism for public consumption, but—as we see from too many American universities—to take no real action to combat it, especially when they themselves might suffer discomfort.

If the Irish abandon this reprehensible effort, it will be much to your credit. And if they should move forward, we hope the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will work both legislatively and with the Trump Administration to impose the consequences that you have suggested would be forthcoming.

We need more elected officials willing to speak plainly when allies go astray, and thank you for being one of them. Your leadership offers not just strength, but hope. The Coalition for Jewish Values deeply appreciates your leadership.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Yaakov Menken'.

Rabbi Yaakov Menken  
Executive Vice President