



May 23, 2019

VIA U.S. MAIL & ELECTRONIC MAIL

Grant F. Smith, Director
Institute for Research: Middle Eastern Policy, Inc.
P.O. Box 32041
Washington, DC 20007
Email: info@irmep.org

Re: Freedom of Information Act request – received May 20, 2019

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Virginia-Israel Advisory Board for the Commonwealth of Virginia (hereinafter, “VIAB”) acknowledges receipt of the above-referenced correspondence in which you seek certain information pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Virginia Code Section 2.2-3700, *et seq.* (hereinafter, “FOIA”). Specifically, your request states:

In accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2 -3700 et seq.) I am requesting a copy of VIAB records naming the Israeli entities/corporations/consortiums behind the following code-named projects. Projects 1-6 were named in VIAB’s 2018 Annual Report.^{[1][1]}

1. Project Turbine A multi-billion dollar Israeli real estate and renewable energy concern with significant properties in D.C. / Northern Virginia is developing several solar energy sites in Virginia to produce electricity. Expanding renewable energy capacity is a requirement of major data centers to locate in Virginia.

2. Ballistic. Product that analyzes (counts and calibrates) weapons systems for management and maintenance. Already selling to federal agencies and defense establishment. Two Israelis relocated to the Hampton Roads region in 2017.

^{[1][1]} <https://rga.lis.virginia.gov/Published/2018/RD508/PDF>

3. Project Re-cycle Multi-site Company recycles 95% of municipal waste and converts it to a new material that can be used for nearly every application plastic is used including building materials. The process eliminates the need for landfills. The company visited Virginia several times and is contemplating establishing its U.S. headquarter here as well as its first U.S. recycling facility. It will require several plants to serve the entire state. Expected jobs for HQ and initial plant 120 – 1-2 years.

4. Salty Fish Sea and freshwater fish hatcheries and captive grow fish farming. The company visited Virginia and conducted site reviews. Hatchery and fish farm involves a \$17m investment and will employ 50 people within 2 years.

5. Ecowave Power Renewable energy company that converts kinetic energy from sea waves into electricity. Company has a working trial in Europe for the past two years and expanding it to 5 megawatts. VIAB is presenting them to sea-facing cities and counties in Virginia as the first U.S. installation. The system is attached to existing structures (e.g. sea walls, wave breakers and Piers) and is appropriate to put on the bases of Virginia bridges to power the bridges requirements or sell electricity to the grid. The prospect fits VIAB's multiple site model, meaning this single company can build multiple facilities in Virginia.

6. Vegan Non-Meat producer and packager – The leading Israeli vegan, non-meat fresh and frozen food producer sold in all major supermarkets is fulfilling sales in the U.S. from its Israel plant. They are seeking to build a U.S. manufacturing facility. In the short term want to outsource production and packaging to a U.S. partner / contractor who will (i) hire and manage 10 workers immediately, dedicated to this product line. In a later phase, the company will build its own plant and require 40-50 workers.

7. Jonah. Project Jonah has secured a \$10 million grant conditional on meeting certain benchmarks including matching private funds. Other funds of at least \$1 million have also been awarded in Tazewell County and additionally Virginia Tech was involved in securing \$500,000 from Federal and local sources for R&D.^{[2][2]}

Please be advised that, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3705.6(3), public records containing

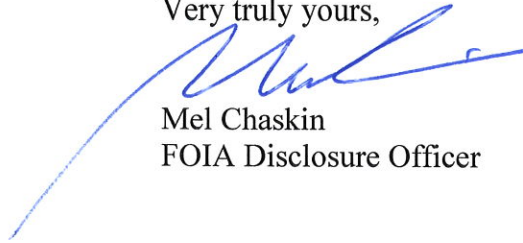
[P]roprietary information, voluntarily provided by private business pursuant to a promise of confidentiality from a public body, used by the public body for business, trade, and tourism development or retention; and memoranda, working papers, or other information related to businesses that are considering locating or expanding in Virginia, prepared by a public body, where competition or bargaining is involved and where disclosure of such information would adversely affect the financial

^{[2][2]} From a 12/1/2015 VIAB report.

interest of the public body are excluded from the mandatory disclosure provisions of FOIA. The records you seek contain propriety information provided by private businesses to the VIAB pursuant to a promise of confidentiality and are used by the VIAB for business, trade, and tourism development and retention. As such, the requested records are exempt from the mandatory disclosure provisions of FOIA and will not be produced.

Thank you for your attention.

Very truly yours,



Mel Chaskin
FOIA Disclosure Officer