



May 9, 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 2, 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 the econometric model substantiating VIAB’s quantitative public claims of jobs created, ROI and tax revenue generated for the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2018.

In its 2018 Annual Report (<https://rga.lis.virginia.gov/Published/2018/RD508/PDF>), VIAB made the following claims:

“The VIAB contributed to creating 177 new jobs last year, many in established companies that will continue to add jobs next year.” (Source Virginia Israel Advisory Board Annual Report FY 2018, page 3.)

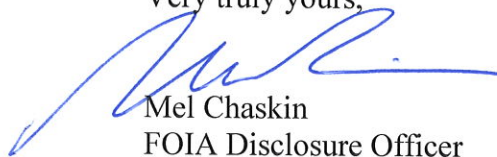
Israeli companies' tax contribution to the Virginia Treasury exceeded 25 times VIAB's budget in 2018, rendering a 550% ROI over the terms of the past four Governors." (Source Virginia Israel Advisory Board Annual Report FY 2018, page 3.)"

Please be advised that, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3704(A), FOIA is applicable only to citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia, representatives of newspapers and magazines with circulation in the Commonwealth, and representatives of radio and television stations broadcasting in or into the Commonwealth.

Even assuming, *arguendo*, that you were a citizen of the Commonwealth, please be advised that the Virginia Freedom of Information Act governs public access to information contained in existing documents. FOIA imposes no obligation on a public body to conduct legal or other research or to answer questions unrelated to or unsubstantiated by existing documentation or records maintained by that public body, nor does it require a public body to create a record if a record does not already exist. The VIAB has no existing documents responsive to your request.

Thank you for your attention.

Very truly yours,



Mel Chaskin
FOIA Disclosure Officer