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Eliot
LD 1383

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LD 1383, An Act to Require the State to Divest Itself of Assets Invested in Corporations That Contribute to Genocide and Human Rights Abuses

Good morning and thank you to the honorable members of the committee for allowing me to share my testimony today.

My name is Anastasia Azenaro-Moore, I'm a resident of Eliot and I'm here to give my full support to LD1383.

As a lifelong Maine resident, I have always been impressed by the ways that our humble state embodies its motto, Dirigo. From being one of the earliest states to adopt Rank Choice Voting to being one of only 13 states to have a mandatory paid family and medical leave policy, Maine has shown that it is willing to lead the nation in shaping for a future that is fairer and more just.

However, our forward thinking outlook does not extend into the financial assets that we are holding as a state. Currently, the Maine State Pension fund is invested in a slew of corporations that are actively violating human rights, profiting off genocides and assisting with deportations for ICE that have ripped families across the country and here in Maine apart.

As a Maine resident, I am distressed knowing my tax dollars are being used to increase the shareholder wealth of corporations that profit off human suffering. I know that as a state we can do better. By divesting in corporations like Palantir, Signature Aviation and Lockheed Martin, companies that make up a small portion of our pension fund, we could ensure our morals and ideals match where we are our investing our state's tax dollars without jeopardizing the financial health of our pension fund.

The passage of LD1383 could be another "Dirigo" moment where Maine firmly plants its footing on the right side of history just as we did when we divested from the fossil fuel industry and in corporations complicit in the Apartheid system in South Africa.

We need leaders, now more than ever, to stand up for what is good, moral, and just and that's why I strongly recommend this committee supports this bill. Thank you for your time.