

Erin Dodge
Portland
LD 1383

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

Thank you to Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and the honorable members of the Committee for hearing our testimony today.

The United States is funding violence all over the globe that leads to people becoming refugees... only to find themselves being deported by this very same country. We in Maine say no to this cruelty. We refuse to participate in destroying peoples' homes anywhere in this world, and we must look for all possible ways to cut off the funding and legitimacy of these abuses. We welcome our immigrant neighbors: Maine is their home, and we are made so much richer by their presence.

Over the past few months, it seems like every other day I hear news that someone has been abducted by ICE. A high school athlete and his family, a pastor, everyday people. Teachers and parents are patrolling Elementary and High School pick-up and drop-off to protect neighbors from being harassed or kidnapped. Their courage is humbling, and I hope by standing here I am doing my part.

Palestinian poet Rasha Abdulhadi urges us to take whatever we have at our disposal: a single handful of sand if we must, and throw it into the gears of the death machine. We do not know what it will take to stop it, but we know that it will take ALL of us, standing up with our one body, our one voice, our little fistful of sand, and joining it with other voices, other bodies, together.^{SEPSEP}

We have a critical tool in our hands right now: how and where we choose to invest money as a State. Will we use this leverage to halt the gears that seek to grind up our fellow humans?

I hope you will all stand up and vote to pass LD1383. Thank you.