

Katie Marcotte
Otisfield
LD 1383

Testimony in Support of LD 1383

To: Committee on State and Local Government

Date: January 21, 2026

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and honorable members of the Committee on State and Local Government:

My name is Katie Marcotte, and I am a resident of Otisfield, Maine. I am here today to urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1383.

I support this bill because I believe our state's financial power should reflect our community's values. I have lived in Maine for 45 years, and I've always been proud of our state's reputation for independence and integrity. It feels fundamentally un-Mainer to say we value human rights and the safety of our neighbors on one hand, while our state investments are quietly fueling the detention of families and the bombing of civilians on the other. We shouldn't have to choose between a secure future for our retirees and our basic conscience.

Currently, Maine's public funds are invested in corporations that facilitate human rights abuses and international crimes. When our tax dollars support companies like Signature Aviation or Palantir, we are no longer neutral; we become silent partners in the harm they enable.

We have heard the concern that divestment is a financial risk, but Maine's own history proves otherwise. When we divested from fossil fuels, our portfolio grew significantly. We are talking about less than 1% of the total pension fund assets—reallocating this is a manageable financial move that protects Maine from the legal and ethical risks of being complicit in international crimes.

Maine has a proud history of leading on human rights, from South Africa to Sudan.

LD 1383 is the logical next step to ensure we aren't just reacting to crises, but setting a permanent standard for responsible investment.

Please vote "Ought to Pass" and ensure Maine remains a leader in human rights.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Katie Marcotte