

January 20th, 2026

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

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Committee,

My name is Lily Chaleff, and I am a resident of South Portland, Maine. I am an American Jew, who has spent a lifetime grappling with the state sanctioned persecution, oppression, and genocide that my family experienced just 3 generations ago. **I urge you to support the passing of LD 1383**, as it prohibits the state of Maine to invest state resources and generate profit from any corporation that assists governments in committing grave human rights violations.

To me, that is an obvious, obtainable, and impactful change for this committee to vote to support, that is line with my values instilled by my lineage that survived the holocaust:

- **It is an obvious moral stance:** This will ensure that Maine residents are not complicit against their wishes in supporting weapons manufacturers and companies that financially support surveillance, harassment, detainment, and other human rights violations, through their tax dollars and pensions.
- **It is obtainable and there is a set precedent:** In 2021, Maine passed a bill (LD99) divesting state pension from the entire fossil fuel industry. LD 1383 is only focusing on 1-2% of the entire budget, smaller than the commitment made and executed successfully since 2021.
- **It provides an opportunity for Maine to be a leading example of impartial justice:** By requiring divestment from any corporation that actively supports human rights abuses, the bill does not single out or target any one corporation or nation. This legislation chooses one reasonable and widely-held moral standard and applies it consistently across all investments, which in turn also reduces the politicized arguments over specific current events.

Our communities across Maine are working in many ways to support their neighbors in a time of heightened violence, and I hope with the power you hold, you can also do your part from the Maine legislator to work in solidarity with your neighbors and constituents. Thank you for considering these points in this impactful decision.

Respectfully,

Lily Chaleff
South Portland, Maine

lillianrc416@gmail.com