

Public hearing date: 1/20/26

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 on State and Local Governance, my name is Rebecca Abuza and I am a resident of Wiscasset. I work as a Maine Guide. As a jewish person, I support LD 1383 for personal, statewide, and global reasons. My family emigrated from Russia (modern day Ukraine) in the 1880s, fleeing anti-jewish riots and campaigns. The use of the Russian army against jews at that time, mirrors the grotesque role of ICE on US streets today. Over a hundred years ago, my family struggled to obtain resources and documentation to flee persecution. They stole documentation and changed their name. If this 1880s family lore were unfolding in the present day, my family would be in a detention center. It is extremely disheartening that in 140 we've made backwards progress in honoring the inherent worth and dignity of every person. ICE terrorizing comunities is not the answer in the United States and Genocide is not the answer in Palestine!

It is vital that Maine divest from assets that tie the state to genocide and human rights violations. In order to uphold and fight for humanity world-wide, Maine must let its residents know that it is not funding the mechanisms that tear our community apart. Passing this bill is a signal to every Mainer that our state government is not complicit in the horrors of this moment that are being enacted and normalized by the federal government.

I encourage the committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1383, An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations. Thank you for your time in reading and listening to testimony.

Rebecca Abuza  
Wiscasset  
LD 1383

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