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Old Town
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

Thank you to the honorable members of the Committee for being here today, and listening to the voices of your constituency. My name is Elijah Bradshaw, and I am a resident of Old Town as well as a member of the graduate worker community at the University of Maine. I am writing today in support of LD 1383, which prohibits the state from investing its resources in corporations that contribute to genocide and abuse human rights.

My reason for supporting this bill is ultimately quite simple: no one deserves to experience state violence, and our state's resources are better allocated elsewhere. Having recently moved here from North Carolina, I've experienced the effect that the rise in militant police violence has had on my community. The creation of 'cop cities', and the violence perpetrated by ICE in our communities in the south has created an atmosphere of fear and distrust in the state that I do not want to see repeated here in Maine. Our communities deserve better; our state's resources should not be invested in the perpetration of genocide and gross, discriminatory policing.

These divestment actions of course have precedent, as these are the same actions that were taken to remove the state's resources from the apartheid system in South Africa. An injury to one community is an injury to us all. In that same light, a step towards bringing peace to the communities that need it most by our state is a healing step towards equity and safety for us all. I strongly recommend that you support this bill, thank you for your time.