

January 21, 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

Thank you to Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Committee for allowing me to speak today. My name is Lisa Gilson, and I am a resident of Monmouth, Maine. I am here today to testify in support of LD 1383. I have submitted my statement online for the Committee to reference.

I'm also a Jewish Mainer. Others testifying today have spoken powerfully about the importance of this bill in light of the long history of Jewish persecution and the Holocaust. I want to register my agreement with what they have said. In my limited time, though, I want to focus on a different reason I believe this bill matters.

I have experience working on campaigns to divest university endowments from fossil fuels, and I learned something important through that work: large clients can shape what investment options exist. Investment management companies often do not develop specialized portfolios until major investors clearly signal demand for them. Over time, sustained demand helped drive the development of fossil-fuel-divested portfolio options.

Maine has the opportunity to do something similar here. By supporting LD 1383, the state can signal that there is real demand for investment portfolios that do not include companies complicit in human rights abuses and genocide. That kind of demand can set a precedent—encouraging more socially-conscious portfolio options not just for states, but for ordinary people who want to save for retirement without feeling forced to bankroll destructive developments they condemn.

For these reasons, I urge you to support LD 1383. Thank you for your time.

Lisa Gilson
Monmouth
LD 1383

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