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LD 1383

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

Good morning to the members of the honorable Committee and thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Lara Rakocevic and I am a resident of Brunswick. I am here to support LD1383 to prohibit the state of Maine from investing state resources into and generating profits from corporations that abuse human rights.

As a Maine taxpayer, I do not want our state money to go towards supporting corporations that are aiding in the spread of terror and harm both in our state and abroad. Companies like Signature Aviation, Palantir, and Boeing that we currently invest with are fueling gross including deporting our community members and providing weapons of genocide, and I do not want to be complicit in this in any way. I especially do not want to be tied to the successes of these companies, which we necessarily are if we invest our state money with them. We need to divest to show where we stand, that our care and concern for detention of our neighbors and genocide is not mere lip service, and to serve as an example for other states to do the same. We can do this altogether, but we need to show what we stand for, and now is the moment.

I come from a family of immigrants. I think of how other families in similar positions have had their lives disrupted, torn apart, and forever broken for doing the same thing that my family has done. I believe that Maine cares, and that we want to protect our people. Maine has already chosen to divest from other harmful practices in the past, and this would show an even stronger commitment to protecting human rights and wellbeing now and in the future.

I strongly recommend that you support this bill. Thank you for your time.