

Carol Eisenberg  
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LD 1383

My name is Carol Eisenberg. I am a resident of Rockland, Maine, a registered Democrat, a retired attorney and a Jew. I am writing to urge you to reject LD 1383, for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is that it is profoundly antisemitic.

LD 1383 essentially asks Maine to divest from any entity that operates in, directly benefits from, or is associated with a state that has been credibly accused of genocide. "Accused" by whom? Who gets to decide if the accusations are "credible?" Who gets to decide what constitutes a "genocide" or an "association?" Based on unconstitutionally vague standards, Maine would be banned from doing business with a huge number of companies in a vast array of countries, including the USA. Instead of having state officials making sound investments that adhere to accepted fiduciary standards, unaccountable foreign actors such as Amnesty International will be permitted to control investment decisions that bind Maine taxpayers and impact Maine citizens.

Although the bill's wording appears neutral, it is unquestionably intended to target only Israel. It's a safe bet the bill's originators and proponents, who are part of an anti-Israel coalition, will not be urging sanctions against Turkey or Qatar ... countries that provide ideological and financial support to Hamas, whose founding charter calls for the killing of all Jews and the destruction of Israel, and who, as demonstrated by the events of 10/7, still pursues this goal. At least some of the activists behind this bill deny the atrocities committed by Hamas on October 7th or argue that those murders, rapes and kidnappings were justified.

And then there is the cost. Passage of a bill that unconstitutionally outsources important economic decisions to foreign groups and targets Israel will generate immediate legal challenges. This will cost our taxpayers vast sums of money ... money that is desperately needed for other state purposes.

Finally, I urge you to take very seriously the fact that Jews in Maine are experiencing a historic surge of antisemitism. A Jewish friend of mine had stones thrown at her by pro-Palestinian protesters while crossing the street in her community. Any vote for LD 1383 is a vote that increases the danger to Maine's Jewish community and contributes to an atmosphere of division and hatred.