

January 21, 2026

***LD 1383: An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of
International Human Rights Violations***

Dear Members of the Committee on State and Local Government,

My name is Ethan Miller, I am a resident of the Town of Greene, Maine. I am here as a citizen, a taxpayer, a business owner, and a human being, to express my strong support for LD 1383.

Imagine that someone came up to you and said: “Hey, I have a way for you to make some money. It involves investing in companies that profit by supporting governments that are terrorizing their populations, enacting crimes against humanity, and perpetrating genocide.” How would you respond?

I believe that your answer would be clear, and that it would come without hesitation: “*Absolutely not.*” It doesn’t matter what side of the aisle you sit on. I don’t believe that any good-hearted person, acting in the fullness of their humanity, and with integrity to their faith, would purposefully choose to profit from such violence and harm.

The thing about investments is that they easily create a buffer between us, the investors, and the consequences of what we invest in. It’s plausible deniability: “...we didn’t know...”. But what about when we *do* know? What is our responsibility then? This is where we find ourselves now.

As a small business owner, I know the importance of sound investment. I know that good intentions don’t automatically lead to financial success. And I also know that when we have the chance to responsibly align our investments with what we know to be morally right, we have no excuses for doing so that do not diminish our humanity.

Supporting LD 1383 is a rare opportunity for us to make a moral, and fiscally-responsible, choice about how our hard-earned money is used. So when they say, “Hey, I have a way for you to make some money...”, this is our chance to prove that we are the kind of people who say, “*no*, we here in Maine stand for freedom, justice, and human dignity for all.”

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ethan Miller', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ethan Miller
Greene, ME