

Mia Bertelli

Waldo

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

Good morning!

Thank you to Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Committee on State and Local Government for reading my testimony today. My name is Mia Bertelli, and I am a music educator, community organizer, barista, and resident of Waldo, Maine. I am writing in support of LD 1383, and to express my sincere hopes that we take a stand as a state to divest our money from corporations and entities that continue to support grave human rights abuses.

It is an intense time to be alive, and it continues to be heartbreaking to watch atrocities being committed both abroad and right in our local communities, and to feel so impotent to stop the tide of violence and fear that it engenders on an individual and global scale. I watch in horror as my country continues to choose to support actions that in no way support human thriving, and instead continue to plant seeds of trauma that can only beget more trauma-- and why? Money? Power? Safety for some but not for others? It is not worth the cost, and that what we are buying is not true safety or true power.

It gives me great hope that this bill might allow us to weaken the channels of support that keep the tools and systems of violence running that is in none of our interests to support. I want to keep my friends and neighbors safe, and I want to keep my beloved human kin across the world safe. Let us put our money into things we want to grow.

Thank you so much for your time and for hearing my testimony.