

Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing today as a Jew and a Mainer, imploring you to support L.D. 1383. Mainers, especially those who dedicate decades to ensuring our state functions, should not be forced into complicity with war crimes abroad and locally.

In the short time I've lived in Maine, I've learned that Mainers care about their neighbors, protecting our beautiful wilderness, and being upstanding citizens. These corporations not only cause unjust physical harm to countless people but also destroy beautiful and fragile lands all over the world, pollute our air and waters, and commit moral and spiritual injury to those who support them.

We all deserve to protect ourselves against further war and oppression, the likes of which we are seeing rise at an alarming rate all over the country, and just yesterday in our own state. Some may believe that supplying war abroad and locally makes us safer, but they are wrong. If this continues to be business as usual, these weapons will turn on all of us in this room today who aren't the connected and wealthy. I believe they already have. Despite the short-term wins that some wars may have for some people, we are all harmed by this system, either personally, as the descendants of war-based trauma, or as future ancestors of descendants inheriting a more dangerous world. We are all under surveillance without our consent or knowledge, our neighbors are being shot and abducted with impunity, and this is just the beginning. We are in the early stages of fascism, the likes of which forced my great-grandparents to immigrate to the US over a hundred years ago, that have murdered and displaced native people on this very land we stand, and turned African people into disposable property under the slave trade. We cannot continue to feed the corporations that have always chipped away at our basic liberties, our right to safety, and our moral integrity.

I am asking the state of Maine to choose Mainers over a small slice of profit. To be brave and stand in our humanity in the face of Goliath profiteers and war mongers. History is unfolding before our eyes, and it has yet to be determined what path our country will take. Let's dare to imagine something better and build towards it. Thank you for listening to all the testimonies here. I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to participate in this democratic process with you, while I can.

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