

Cameron Brewer
Biddeford
LD 1383

Dear Members of this Esteemed Committee,

It is with the utmost urgency that I urge you to support LD 1383 and the divestment of Maine's economy from State and Non-State actors credibly accused of human rights abuses. In my testimony, I will argue that divesting from organizations whose fortunes are built on untold atrocities isn't just the morally righteous thing to do, but the practical and fiscally responsible thing to do as well. I hope that this testimony, along with the testimonies of my fellow Mainers, will move you toward some sense of duty and action.

Continued investment in companies and governments engaged in genocide, ethnic cleansing, unlawful detention, and other human rights violations is a blatant stain on Maine's moral conscience. Many new Mainers are refugees and otherwise displaced people. Some have fled repressive regimes directly supported by organizations benefiting from the instability and violence of their homelands. It is seemingly small compromises in character like this that allow for massive lapses in our responsibility to our state and to each other to occur. If we're able to look the other way as we take money from companies such as Boeing, whose work has caused undeniable harm through the proliferation of bombs and warplanes used against civilian populations, then who knows how else we're willing to compromise ourselves?

Divestments is also a practical issue, and one with potentially monumental financial consequences. As the federal government's increasingly aggressive tariff actions threaten to spiral into a global trade war, securing stable investments in long-term growth sectors (such as alternative energy and the materials needed for housing/ construction development) will only become more difficult. Continued investment in organizations dedicated to extracting wealth from harm is effectively choosing to invest in destruction over building a better tomorrow. We have an incredible opportunity to fund a future that is more affordable, ecologically friendly, and energy secure. That future could be one where Maine leads the way, not just in creating a state that is climate resilient and fiscally sound, but shows that doing so can be done while upholding the highest ideals of human dignity.

Thank you for your time, and I once again urge you to support LD 1383.