

Mea Tavares
Stockton Springs
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

Thank you to Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Committee for allowing me to speak today. My name is Mea Tavares and I am a resident of Stockton Springs, where I practice as a trauma-informed bodyworker and community care worker. I am also a 16th generation white Acadian settler on the Wabanaki land where we are here to discuss this bill. Through our investments as a state, we are currently complicit in the violence of genocide and of human rights violations internationally, such as in Palestine where entire families and lineages have been removed from the earth by bombs we fund, and here in Maine where, as we speak, our neighbors are being terrorized, detained and disappeared by ICE agents with no due process and blatant, sadistic disregard for our shared humanity.

As a state founded on genocidal violence of the Wabanaki people, we have much to reckon with. But, there is dignity to be had in doing what we can to divest from corporations that profit off of the active violence done to our neighbors and our communities, locally and globally. LD 1383 gives us that opportunity.

I hope you will take the time as you sit in the durational process of listening to testimony after testimony, to feel your own body; your heartbeat, your breath, perhaps your fatigue or hunger or your own hope or grief. And in that shared remembering of the human experience we are holding, that you support this bill.