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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 members of the committee for your time. My name is Camille Kavanah, I am a resident of Orono. I am here to support LD 1383, an act to require the state to divest itself of assets invested in corporations that contribute to genocide and human rights abuses.

I have been a farm worker in different parts of Maine for much of my life. I feel so fortunate to be able to help provide communities in Maine with good food. I believe that all people should have access to good food, clean water, safe housing, the freedom of movement, and as stated in the Maine State Constitution the right to pursue and obtain safety and happiness.

In late September 2025 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Satellite Center collected data on the cropland damage in the Gaza Strip as a result of the Palestinian genocide. They have recorded that 86.9 percent of cropland has been damaged in the Gaza strip. Due to the investments that Maine holds with companies like Boeing, Mainers are complicit in this devastating damage and all the harm that has been committed against the Palestinian people.

The investments that the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MPERS) holds in companies like Signature Aviation, and Palantir do not support the value that I listed earlier. These investments directly harm our communities in Maine by fueling ICE deportation flights, as well as harming communities abroad by supporting genocide. And make us as Mainers complicit in these abuses.

Please support LD 1383 so that our investments reflect Maine values, and support our communities in our state and abroad.

Thank you for your time today.

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