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LD 1383

Hello, my name is Meredith MacEachern, I'm a resident of Brunswick, and I am speaking in support of LD1383. I'm involved with a number of local and state orgs represented here today, including the Maine Coalition for Palestine and the Maine Coalition for Peace and Human Rights.

Though I grew up in Maine, I have also lived inside and outside the US. I grew up with family members and friends who have been fighting the systems addressed by this bill for decades before I was born. People who faced tear gas and beatings by armed police for fighting against Apartheid South Africa, and saw decades in which institutions refused to make divestment decisions that seem obvious now. People who witnessed the militarization of Puerto Rico and the carcinogens from weapons of war forced on Vieques, and see now the American military in force again even as power outages and poverty plague the island. People who lost their homes to forced relocation by Danish and American forces in Kalaallit Nunaat, or Greenland, and watch the climate crisis continue to ravage the arctic and colonizers warmonger over their land.

I myself have been involved in community and internationalist activism in some form or another since I was a teenager, and have witnessed first hands the way systems and individuals will prioritize their own safety and comfort over change, and how that prolongs suffering across the world.

These experiences emphasize the need not just for action, but for swift action. We have lost millions of people, each one a universe, to these genocidal tactics and weapons in Gaza and against local migrants, against Haitians and indigenous nations alike. It is true that these divestment processes are long and complex. That is only more of a reason to begin now. Thank you.