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LD 1383

I oppose LD 1383 because it wastes taxpayer money at a moment when Maine people can barely afford to live here. Housing costs are soaring, groceries and heating oil keep climbing, health care is stretched thin, and schools need real investment. Every legislative hour and every public dollar should be aimed at making Maine more affordable. Instead, LD 1383 pulls the state into foreign policy fights that do nothing to lower rents, cut energy bills, or help working families. The bill would spend taxpayer resources reviewing international human rights reports—many from bodies with documented bias—to decide which countries and companies Maine should divest from, with no clear standards, due process, or right of appeal. If applied evenly, the standard could force MainePERS to divest from companies tied to the U.S., China, and others, destabilizing diversified portfolios and putting retirees' savings at risk across sectors like AI, semiconductors, energy, communications, and logistics.

The sponsors say this bill isn't about Israel, yet the public messaging and even the clothing worn at the hearing told a different story, with an inordinate focus on Israel. That signals a double standard that will drag Maine into costly, divisive global politics while taxpayers foot the bill. Maine cannot afford to waste money on symbolic foreign policy gestures when people are struggling to pay rent, heat their homes, and buy food. Sanctions and diplomacy belong at the federal level, not in Augusta. LD 1383 doesn't make life cheaper for a single Mainer—it makes government bigger, more distracted, and more expensive. Lawmakers should reject LD 1383 and focus on what truly matters: fixing Maine's affordability crisis and investing our limited resources where they actually help people at home.