

Jordan Cohen

Camden

LD 1383

Re: Oppose LD 1383

I am writing regarding LD 1383. Regrettably, I was not able to attend the hearing in person yesterday (1/21/26).

While the bill does not mention Israel by name, it is clear from public statements by organizers and proponents that Israel is its primary—if not sole—intended target.

My concern is not accountability, but selective accountability, and the real impact that such selectivity would have on Mainers.

The bill relies on UN, ICC, and NGO determinations that are unevenly applied and widely viewed as politicized—particularly against the world’s only Jewish state. This pattern is well documented and deeply contested, including by democratic allies of the United States.

This approach does nothing to protect Palestinians. Nor would a selective determination by a committee in Maine address mass atrocities occurring elsewhere in the world. There are well over 100 active armed conflicts globally, only a small fraction of which receive sustained attention or scrutiny in U.S. political discourse.

Instead, the bill imports a highly polarized international conflict into Maine politics without producing tangible humanitarian benefit, while at the same time risking further exacerbation of the very real and rising antisemitism in our state.

In the current climate, the public does not reliably distinguish between Israeli government policy and Jewish identity. Antisemitism is rising in Maine and globally, and measures such as this risk worsening that reality while offering no meaningful protection to civilians abroad.

As a member of Maine’s small Jewish community, I have personally experienced antisemitism. In my “postcard town” of Camden, we have had multiple incidents of antisemitic vandalism. Our synagogue must pay for special police detail whenever more than ten congregants gather or when we host a public Hanukkah celebration in Rockland. I refer to this as the “Jew tax”—the price we pay for living openly Jewish in America today, even in a state we deeply love and call home.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose LD 1383.

Respectfully,

Jordan Cohen

Camden, Maine