

January 21, 2026

LD 1383, An Act to Require the State to Divest Itself of Assets Invested in Corporations That Contribute to Genocide and Human Rights Abuses

Testimony of David Klauber

Thank you to the Committee for this time. My name is David Klauber and I am a resident of Portland, ME. I am here to express my support of LD 1383 to prohibit Maine investment in corporations that are profiting from human rights abuses, unlawful detentions, genocide.

I am here because as a Jew of Ashkenazi descent, there are gaps in my family history because of the pogroms of the early 20th century and the Holocaust. In one branch of my family there is no country of origin that is visited or spoken of to this day because it was renounced, viewed as complicit in allowing the unthinkable to occur- the systematic removal of Jews from their homes and community. This complicity was not always overt- it was often passive, quiet, bureaucratic, and in the background. At times nothing more than the reluctance to disrupt business as usual and recognize what was happening for what it was.

I am chilled to the bone as echoes of this past play out on this very day here and abroad. Masked and heavily armed ICE agents descend upon my community in Portland as we speak. We sit here in the safety and warmth of this room while my fellow immigrant community members, neighbors, friends, and chosen family, are terrified, hiding in their homes. As we sit here the project to erase the Palestinian people continues forward: maiming, slaughter, starvation.

LD 1383 is our opportunity to say 'NO,' to decide that Maine cannot and will not conduct business as usual in this context; that we will not be complicit in this havoc through investment in companies like Signature Aviation, Palantir, and Boeing, whose products and services directly facilitate these projects of detainment, erasure, and murder. That we will not look away and quietly seek to benefit financially from these grave violations against humanity.

I cannot recommend strongly enough that you support this bill. Thank you for your time.