

January 21, 2026

LD 1383, An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations

Thank you Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and the honorable members of the Committee for allowing me to provide testimony today. My name is Jason D'Amico and I am a resident of Portland. I am here to voice my support for LD 1383 to prohibit the state from investing in and profiting from corporations committing human rights violations internationally and domestically.

I grew up in Freeport, and I am proud of being from Maine and coming through the state public school system. What I learned growing up in Maine is that the state prides itself on being a place of caring, inviting people who happily welcome people of all backgrounds to visit, live and work in this beautiful state. I am the person I am today because of the values that this state and its residents imparted upon me. I never had any hesitation about identifying myself with the state of Maine. I voiced the values of my home state with pride while attending college out of state and happily returned to live and work in Maine upon graduation.

However, I was appalled to learn that the state pension fund invests in companies developing technology used to commit human rights abuses such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Palantir and Signature Aviations. While Maine may be a welcoming and inviting place to live, work and visit, its investments show it is willing to invest the taxes of its workers in human rights abuses domestically and abroad to maintain that image. Supporting genocide, ethnic cleansing and war crimes for any reason, much less in the name of profit, does not align with the values of the state I know and love.

With the state's history of divestment from corporations profiting from human rights abuses in South Africa and Sudan, LD 1383 is an opportunity for Maine to expand its commitment to global human rights. Without complete divestment, Maine is showing that it is only willing to stand up to human rights violations to a certain extent, showing that Maine is not the universally welcoming state that I and other Mainers know it as.

To align state investments with the value of caring for and supporting visitors and residents of all backgrounds that is ingrained in the culture of the state of Maine, I urge the passing of LD 1383. If the state fails to divest, I and many like myself who grew up to love this state will face the reality that the state does not stand behind its values and only presents them when it is convenient to do so.

I strongly recommend that you support this bill. Thank you for your time.