

LD 1383

An Act to Require the State to Divest Itself of Assets Invested in Corporations that Contribute to Genocide and Human Rights Abuses

Good morning. My name is Lawrence Reichard, I live in Belfast, and I support LD 1383. In my life I have traveled, worked, lived, and studied in 45 countries on four continents. In Chile, Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador and elsewhere I have seen firsthand how the systematic violation of human rights destroys and hollows out families, communities, and entire countries. In a Mexican prison I illegally smuggled funds to a Salvadoran refugee slated for deportation, so that upon his deportation he could immediately turn around and flee El Salvador again. This is the kind of havoc that state-sponsored violence visits upon people.

I have also lived and worked here in this country with refugees whose families were ripped apart by state-sponsored terror, leaving their children to grow up without parents. And, as a journalist, I have written about all of this.

Make no mistake about it, any entity that invests in state-sponsored violence is complicit in that violence. I have lived in Maine for 40 years, more than half my life. Maine is my home. I love Maine, and I don't want my state, my home, to be complicit in policies that destroy people, their families, their communities and their countries. Please support LD 1383. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

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