

LD 1383. January 21, 2026

Honorable Chair Baldacci, Sen Salisbury, and honorable acommittee members,

I am Betsy Armstrong, a voter in Unity, Waldo Co.

I believe in showing up, voting with my body. My first time was 1968, marching for peace and justice for Vietnam. There have been many opportunities since and living in NYC made it convenient to show up for women's rights, for civil rights, for Palestine. But there were also marches protesting the conflicts in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, Grenada, Panama, and against apartheid in South Africa.

My New York pension as a retired teacher comes from the UFT, the largest teacher's union in the country. I don't always agree with the Union but I am very proud to know my pension does not come from subjugated peoples of South Africa. My union followed the wishes of its members and divested of S. African holdings. And the Union is in the process of divesting from Israeli investments. Next, the voting members may target US corporations that are complicit in their deeds.

Personally I hope to hear that Caterpillar gets cut. Caterpillar provided the bulldozer that killed American Rachel Corrie in the 90's and now continue to aid in crushing villages and camps in the West Bank and Gaza. As a Maine tax payer and resident, I would be proud to know Maine has 'stuck a finger in the eye' of a bully and war criminal. I'd bet many of State of Maine's union members would be proud, too.

Thank you,

Betsy Armstrong, Unity