

Good [morning/afternoon], everyone.

My name is Dan Soley, and I'm speaking today as a concerned Maine resident who cares deeply about our state's independence, our hard-earned tax dollars, and the principles we hold dear here in Maine: fairness, self-determination, and keeping control right here at home.

I'm troubled by LD 1383, the bill still pending before us that would force Maine to divest public funds and avoid contracts with any entities tied to so-called "perpetrator states" accused by biased international bodies of human rights violations. On the surface, it sounds noble - who wouldn't want to stand against actual atrocities? But dig deeper, and this bill feels like a dangerous overreach that threatens Maine's sovereignty in ways that hit close to home.

The core problem is enforceability. This legislation relies on determinations from distant international organizations - bodies that aren't accountable to Mainers, who are swayed by politics, selective focus, or outright biased intentions. We would be handing over decisions about our pension funds, our state investments, and our procurement choices to these foreign entities instead of trusting our own Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, our Treasurer, or our elected officials who answer directly to us. Not to mention our State Department. That's not right. Maine should decide Maine's investments based on our values and our laws - not outsourced to panels in far-off places with their own agendas.

This isn't just abstract policy; it's personal. Our retirement savings, our public workers' futures, our small businesses relying on state contracts. All of these are all put at risk by vague, externally driven labels that could shift unpredictably. We risk economic harm here in Maine for decisions we didn't make and can't fully control or appeal.

I urge you: reject LD 1383. Let's keep power where it belongs - with Mainers, through our state processes. Protect our sovereignty, our wallets, and our ability to make fair, independent choices.

Thank you for listening to my concerns—I'm speaking from the heart because this matters to all of us who call Maine home.

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