

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

Thank you, Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Committee, for allowing me to speak today.

My name is **Erica Moody**. I live in Waldoboro, Maine, and I have owned and operated a small metal fabrication business here for over ten years. I'm an employer, a teacher, and someone who depends on Maine's reputation for integrity and trust to sustain my livelihood.

I am also one of over **330 Maine business owners** who have signed a letter in support of responsible investment aligned with the principles of LD 1383, which the Committee has in its materials today.

Maine's economy and brand — from tourism to the creative economy — are deeply tied to our reputation for integrity and fairness. In my work, reputation matters. People don't just buy objects from Maine — they buy trust. That trust has real economic value, and once it's damaged, it's hard to regain.

As a small business owner, I make decisions every day that balance finances with values. I choose how I source materials, how I treat employees, and which projects I take on. Those choices are not separate from good business — **they are good business**.

I believe the same standard should apply to the State of Maine.

Public funds represent the collective work and **trust** of Maine people. LD 1383 asks that those funds not be invested in entities credibly identified as **committing serious human rights violations**. From a business perspective, that is responsible stewardship, not ideology. Failing to invest responsibly carries financial, reputational, and market risk. This bill creates a **clear** framework for avoiding those risks, based on recognized international standards.

Maine's economy depends on integrity — in tourism, in the arts, and in small business. Aligning public investments with those values protects the Maine brand and reflects how responsible businesses already operate.

What we invest in reflects what we value — and values have economic consequences.

I respectfully urge you to support LD 1383.
Thank you for your time and service.

Erica Moody, Owner, Erica Moody Fine Metal, Waldoboro, Maine

