

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

