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LD 1383

As a retired Maine public educator of 30+ years and an appreciative future beneficiary of Maine PERS retirement benefits, I was curious when I read about LD 1383--the proposed bill to prohibit our pension system from investing in certain companies allegedly involved in war crimes and genocide. When I looked further, I came across a list of historically successful, profitable companies that would be a wise investment for any individual or entity intending to grow their portfolio. Motivated to dig even more, I became intrigued at the "war crimes" and "genocide" of which these institutions were accused; unfortunately, it did not take me long to deduce that LD 1383 was yet another political football based primarily on more selective moral outrage to advance an agenda. I don't appreciate what appears to be efforts by our elected leaders to use our State benefits system as leverage against my Jewish friends and the state of Israel. Needless to say, I implore you to oppose LD 1383 as it attempts to move forward.

Trust me, I am well aware that votes fall almost exclusively along party lines--a lesson I learned at 11 when my parents (Kennedy Democrats) questioned my thinking and my grandfather (one time Chair of the Central Maine Democrats) lectured me when I revealed I had voted for John Anderson for President in my 6th grade mock election in 1980. For most of my life that free thinking was celebrated in my beautifully independent home state, but that has since sadly evaporated in the past five years and driven our leaders away from the moderation that helped make Maine a great place to live and raise a family.

I truly appreciate the difficult nature of your job and thank you for accepting my input. I merely ask that you consider breaking with what will surely be another party line issue and cast your vote on what is the common sense best for the whole.