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Portland
LD 1383

HELLO, My name is Bri Dostie, resident of Portland, and I am in support of LD 1383.

I have submitted a copy of this testimony online for your reference.

Divesting from corporations that fuel genocide is of deep importance to me, as my voice as an individual has been muted in so many ways by this administration, but also by the State. I didn't know where my retirement dollars were going – Signature Aviation, Planatir, and Boeing DO NOT hold the vision I have for the future. If my money speaks, it says FREE PALESTINE, no kings, love is love, and STOP FUNDING GENOCIDE and UNLAWFUL, INHUMANE, and VIOLENT DEPORTATIONS.

I want to know that my money supports the community I love and am honored to be a part of. Many of my neighbors are queer like me.

Some have found themselves here as refugee, immigrating from Rwanda, Somalia and beyond, for safety and survival. They've built meaningful lives here and have become family.

My neighbors are also the descendants of Irish and Scottish immigrants, French and Acadian – all coming to this place we love, and hoping that tomorrow will be better and brighter than yesterday. I also am privileged to know where most of my food comes from: in Maine, seasonal migrant workers put food on ALL of our tables. And now, because of your spending, all of these community members do not have a tomorrow that is better than yesterday. Many don't even have a today, due to the violence you have funded. How dare you use our hard earned money against us?

This isn't new. Maine has perpetuated genocide such as with of the People of the Dawnland; it has harmed our relationships with one another, with ourselves, and with the woods and waters we call home. The places I attempt to catch brook trout, or at least improve my mental emotional wellbeing, have histories and stories forcibly removed and replaced with borrowed names from across the pond.

This kind of cultural erasure and fear kept me a stranger to myself as I grew up in rural Maine: I figured out I was queer when I was 30, and I still don't know the names of many of my ancestors. Through hard and ongoing work and healing, I expected tomorrow to be better than yesterday.

Ensuring tomorrow is better for my trans family – who statistically, will not be alive if nothing changes – [BREATHE] I need to know they will be there too. I need my nieces and nephews to thrive in their lifetimes, ideally with no more trauma of stolen family. We, as a state, have so much work to do to right the wrongs of the past, and ensure this place we love loves its people back, equitably, justly, and as WE EACH determine.

Here, in front of us, is a way to make tomorrow better for more of us, instead of actively putting ourselves, our neighbors and our families at risk by funding war criminal activity. As we stand in a building built by immigrants on stolen land, you MUST hear and honor the needs of ALL diverse Mainers, new and ancestral. I urge you to pass this bill as a covenant of equitable support. Thank you.