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Bar Harbor
LD 1383

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LD 1383, An Act To Require the State To Divest Itself of Assets Invested in Corporations That Contribute to Genocide and Human Rights Abuses

Members of the Committee -

Good morning and thank you for your time.

My name is Leora Fisher and I am a Jewish resident of Bar Harbor, Maine. I am here to voice my support for LD 1383 to divest Maine state resources from companies actively involved in human rights abuses.

With less than 1% of Maine's pension funds currently invested in corporations directly profiting off of genocide, this legislation is very achievable and would not risk the security of Mainer's pensions. Not only will LD 1383 take a critical step towards bringing the state's investments in line with our values, it presents the opportunity to invest in companies that actually benefit our communities. Instead of holding pension funds in companies like Boeing, Palantir and Signature Aviation that contribute to ICE's campaign of illegal kidnappings, or to the human rights violations taking place in Gaza, we have the opportunity to get more out of Maine pension investments by supporting better companies working for us here at home. Maine has already created a precedent for human rights-based divestment with our decision to divest from the apartheid system in South Africa and from Sudan following the Darfur genocide, and it is our responsibility today to maintain this precedent.

The passage of LD1383 would make investments that contribute to any country committing grave human rights violations illegal, aligning Mainer's pension funds with our values as well as protecting us from contribution liability in international law.

I strongly request your support for this bill. Thank you for considering my testimony.