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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

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Thank you to Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Committee for allowing me to speak today. My name is Kate Goodman, and I am a resident of Portland. I am here to support LD1383 to prohibit the state of Maine from investing state resources into and generating profits from corporations that abuse human rights.

As a Jewish Mainer, I feel compelled to express my support for this bill. Growing up as a third generation American in a Jewish household, I heard many stories of my great-grandparents experiences fleeing the pogroms in Ukraine, forced to leave their homes due to the acts of violence that made staying in their homeland impossible. My family was lucky to have the opportunity to start a new chapter in the United States, including my great-grandmother who was born in Bangor. They passed down a belief in justice and standing up for other victims of violence, and to provide the support to others that allowed my family a safe future.

Because of my family's history as victims of violence, social justice has been the cornerstone of my practice of Judaism. I am a proud resident of Maine. I chose this state as my permanent home partially because I felt safe here having experienced anti-semitism elsewhere in the US. I am proud of Maine's legacy of ethical divestment- such as from fossil fuels and Apartheid South Africa. I ask you to endorse LD 1383 as an opportunity for Maine to do the right again now and align our investments with our values.

I strongly recommend that you support this bill. Thank you for your time.