

January 21st, 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 to Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Committee for allowing me to speak today. My name is Christopher James, and I am a Maine resident and a military veteran. I am writing in support of LD 1383, to prohibit the state of Maine from investing state resources into and generating profits from corporations that abuse human rights.

During my service as an Infantryman in the US Army, I was taught that rules matter. International law matters. Human rights matter. These principles are meant to restrain harm, protect civilians, and hold institutions accountable. Service members are expected to follow those rules, even when it is difficult. Governments should be held to the same standard.

If we expect accountability, lawful conduct, and respect for human rights from individuals in uniform, we should also expect it from the institutions and entities that benefit from public money. As a veteran, I find it deeply troubling when public funds are tied, directly or indirectly, to actions that violate the very standards we ask service members to uphold.

LD 1383 is a measured, responsible step that aligns Maine's actions with its values. It sends a clear message that ethical conduct and respect for international law are not optional, and that Maine will not look the other way when public funds are involved.

For these reasons, I strongly recommend that you support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Christopher James
Wiscasset
LD 1383
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