

***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 Jessica Lavoie and I'm a resident of Auburn. I am fully in support of LD 1383 to prohibit the state of Maine from investing and generating profits from corporations that abuse human rights.

This is not a political issue, this is a moral issue. I'm appalled to continually bare witness to corporate greed at the expense of human life. My social media feeds are filled with countless videos of human suffering. Why? Many of us are doomsscrolling out of necessity because we are trying to cope with unimaginable horrors and we are bombarded with videos like these: Palestinians covered in ash search for family members in a pile of rubble that no longer resembles their home, a physician and neighbor plead with ICE agents to check for a pulse while the body of a limp woman is lumped over the steering wheel, a woman is pulled from her car and thrown to the ground by government employees who was just trying to get to a doctor's appointment. Sadly there are countless others on Supporting this bill should be an easy decision, a layup, a small drop in the bucket to initiate change, to prioritize human life over corporate greed.

I do not want my state, the state of Maine, where I have lived and worked my whole life, to be complicit in human rights abuses. It is your moral and ethical imperative to support LD 1383. Thank you for your time.