

Elizabeth Mahoney  
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LD 1383

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Testimony of Betsy Mahoney on LD 1383, An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations

Good morning Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Betsy Mahoney and I live in Cumberland Foreside. I offer this testimony in support of LD 1383, which would prohibit the State of Maine from investing state resources in or generating profits from corporations that abuse human rights.

As a forty-year resident of the State of Maine the safety of our population is important to me. Currently the State pension fund invests in corporations such as Palantir and Signature Aviations that make a profit off of ICE deportation flights. Hearing the news about the genocide in Gaza and the deaths of thousands of Palestinians is deeply troubling and I do not want my tax dollars contributing to these crimes.

We should follow the precedent of Maine's divestiture from the apartheid system on South Africa and from Sudan following the Darfur genocide by setting a standard going forward. If LD 1383 takes effect, investments that contribute to any country committing grave human rights abuses would be illegal.

I strongly recommend that you support this bill.