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LD 1383

Good afternoon,

I am here to support LD1383, for Maine to divest from corporations that are currently engaged in arming genocide abroad and guaranteeing human rights abuses in this country.

Where we put our money shows what we value, and every dollar that goes toward human rights abuses and terrorism matters, it builds a country where these abuses are both constant and rewarded to increase, and it inevitably endangers us all.

Let us instead build, with Maine workers' very hard-earned money, communities of respect and care for all.

Every job I have worked since I was a dock worker at 7 years old, to after school, to health centers, every community space I have been a part of, has indelibly benefited from the presence of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd generation immigrants, their deep generosity sharing food, acts of service, kindnesses that have helped all of us through times of hardship and abundance alike.

In my own family there are both police officers and immigrants. At my kitchen and community tables Jewish and Palestinian friends gather supporting the lives, well-being and rights of all, rather than apartheid and genocide. I love all of these people, every single one of these people is essential to my world, and has helped me become the best of who I am. But for the grace of god, any one of us may be in a situation where we are in need of help, or where we are the ones being targeted through no fault of our own, and grateful for the community care, instead of prejudice, that comes our way.

This last year, some friends lost their house to a fire, and suddenly became immigrants in their own community, thankful for the support that came their way.

This last year another friend was able to receive some chamomile from their grandmother's garden in Palestine before it was destroyed along with members of her family, and made healing teas for all of their friends, Jewish and Palestinian alike. If all of us sat around the kitchen table together, how quickly would we realize that this neighbor could have been our uncle, this neighbor our sibling, how we are all human together and deserve to be treated with the dignity and care we would our own grandmother who has, her whole life, provided food to us with all the love her hands and heart could give.

I am deeply grateful for all of my family, friends and community members and believe it is my duty as a fellow human to support their human lives and rights, and the dignity and care for all. The very least we can do is divest from systems that guarantee terrorism and genocide within and without our country, that inevitably harm and endanger us all. Let us be in integrity, let us remember that we sit around the kitchen table together on this earth, let us invest instead in communities of care that benefit us all.