

Sarah Katz
Portland
LD 1383

My name is Sarah Katz, I'm a resident of Portland, and I'm writing today to express my support for LD 1383. I am hopeful and inspired to support this bill.

Like so many people I've met here in Maine, I feel a strong sense of responsibility to my broader community, to the vast and varied web of people that call this particular place and this planet home. This responsibility speaks to various parts of my life: the Jewish tradition I was raised in - where I first learned about tikkun olam: the duty to "repair the world", the social work training I received as a graduate student - where an analysis of systemic power and an ethic of justice drove my studies, and the work I do now as a public library employee - where every day my team strives towards inclusion and access to public goods for all of our neighbors. This all underscores why I am vehemently opposed to having our state's pension fund - which is also my own pension fund as a MainePERS enrollee - currently vested in companies who contribute to human rights abuses, mass deportation, and genocide. We have watched in horror as our neighbors in Maine and other states have been racially profiled, targeted, and abducted by ICE, and we have watched in horror as our neighbors across the globe have been subjected to endless war crimes and bombs. These horrors are fueled by companies who generate profits from those very mechanisms of violence, companies like Signature Aviation, Palantir and Boeing. There is no moral justification for securing my own (or anyone else's) retirement with profits being made off of the destruction of communities.

Like so many Mainers, I believe steadfastly in human rights, and in peace, safety, and dignity for my community. This means I believe we have an obligation to make humane decisions about where our state money is invested. I want so badly for Maine's investments to be in closer alignment with our values, and LD1383 makes it easier for us to do that. I urge you to vote in support of LD 1383.

Thank you,
Sarah Katz