

Jennifer Melville
Freeport
LD 1383

Dear Members of the State and Local Government Committee,

I urge your support for LD 1383 to divest the Maine Public Employee Retirement System from companies that facilitate genocide abroad and wrongful detention and deportation of our immigrant neighbors here in the US. As a first generation American of Jewish decent this bill is especially important to me.

Among the stocks that MPERS holds are these:

- Signature Aviation that fuels ICE deportation flights
- Palantir that uses AI and surveillance that puts us all at risk here and overseas.
- Boeing which supplies weapons of war used against civilians around the world.

By divesting from these and other companies that profit from the suffering of our friends, allies, and neighbors we will be in compliance with international law and cement Maine's reputation as a leader in responsible investment.

As just one example, I have a dear friend who came to the US as a UN refugee and is now a US citizen, a nurse, a wife, and mother of three. Because she and her husband are of Somali origin their lives and freedom are now at risk due to the actions of our federal government. These companies are complicit with the Trump administration and I don't want my tax dollars to fund their outsize profits.

Divesting from these warmongering companies does not put our retirees and employees at risk. I have been divesting from these types of organizations and have in no way suffered financially. Similarly, MPERS has greatly reduced its investment in fossil fuels and has seen its portfolio blossom regardless.

We all have a responsibility to align our investments with our values. I hope you will support LD 1383 and work with your colleagues to be sure it passes into law.

Thank you for your steadfast work on behalf of all who call Maine home.