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LD 1383

Hello! I am writing today to express my strong support of LD 1383. As a current state employee, and daughter of a lifelong Maine teacher/MainePERS member, I have immense gratitude for the MainePERS system. I want this system to be the best, most ethical system it can be for the hard working people of the state. Beyond the obvious ethical implications of the investments in question, these investments also place us at legal risk. Maine should be known as a fiscally responsible leader that complies with international law. The requested divestment does not represent a significant burden or risk to the system; in fact, MainePERS has already been successful in significantly divesting from fossil fuels over the past four years, while growing the portfolio.

There is no such thing as neutrality when it comes to human rights, and we should follow our precedent from when Maine divested from the apartheid system in South Africa and from Sudan following the Darfur genocide by setting a standard going forward. With LD 1383, investments that contribute to any country committing grave human rights would be illegal, making it easier for our state to align with our values and avoid contribution liability in international law.

I strongly recommend that you support this bill. Thank you for your time.