

Amy Larkin
Arundel
1/21/26

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and honorable members of the State and Local Government Committee: my name is Amy Larkin, I am a resident of Arundel and I am writing today in strong support of LD 1383, An Act to Require the State to Divest Itself of Assets Invested in Corporations That Contribute to Genocide and Human Rights Abuses.

Maine's Public Employees Retirement System currently holds millions of dollars in companies that are complicit in serious human rights violations, including genocide, apartheid, and inhumane detention. Signature Aviation fuels ICE deportation flights, Palantir builds surveillance systems that help target immigrants and support violence abroad, and Boeing manufactures weapons used against civilians around the world. These investments, which represent roughly less than 1% of our \$22 billion pension fund, put Maine on the wrong side of history and in direct conflict with the values of human rights and dignity that so many Mainers believe this state should uphold.

So much of what I love about Maine is the way we treat our neighbors and support each other. We love this place that we live and feel protective of its beauty and its people. This is a critical and scary moment in our country, and this bill is an opportunity to show up. If we can work to divest from fossil fuels as we have done over the last four years, we can absolutely make this change.

Supporting LD 1383 is about who we are as Mainers. State money should be a force for good in the world, not a quiet engine behind deportations, surveillance, and weapons used on civilians. This bill makes financial, legal, and ethical sense. Passing LD 1383 will reflect our shared values and ensure that the pensions earned by Maine's public servants are not tied to grave injustice. Maine should be able to say it chose to stand with human rights, international law, and the basic principle that people should not have to suffer for our financial gain. I strongly urge you to pass LD 1383 and thank you for your time on this very important matter.

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