

Brenda Hio-Hamdan
Tenants Harbor
LD 1383

Greetings to the Committee Chairs:

I am writing in support of LD1383 that would divest MainePers from companies involved in genocide and human rights abuses. I am a member of MainePers. An Adult Educator in a school district in midcoast Maine, I teach students getting their high school credentials and New Mainers who are learning English. I believe strongly in the inherent worth of every human being and that everyone should have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. That is why I do what I do. Investment in companies that play a role in genocide and undermine human rights in order to fund my retirement account make a mockery of what I do and who I am. In fact, I think these types of investments insult the work of everyone that receives a pension from MainePers.

The people who receive pensions from MainePers are the people who create and maintain the foundation of this state. They are its teachers and police officers, its social workers and road crews, its public defenders and judges. They develop Maine's human resources and create and maintain the infrastructure in which human beings can thrive. The very nature of their jobs makes investment in anything that harms and devalues human life an insult to their work. It just doesn't make sense that when they retire, their pension monies come from sources that undermine the meaning of their live's work.

Maine has a reputation for the decency of its people. The passage of LD1383 acknowledges this, and allows a Mainers to retire with a sense of moral integrity and pride in their state's values.