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LD 1383

My name is Adriana and I'm a born and raised Mainer and a Mexican American woman. I'm here to affirm that this divestment is crucial for the safety and wellbeing of all Mainers.

Firstly, we are at legal risk by continuing to invest in Signature Aviation, Palantir, and Boeing, all of whom are complicit in war crimes and illegal deportations. Under the rulings of the International Court of Justice, investors are liable for the actions taken using funds they provided. Just by examining best practices we can see that standardizing our investments in compliance with international law is the smart thing to do.

Secondly, we are at financial risk by continuing to invest in these companies. We can definitely have healthy, fully funded pensions for state employees without funding human rights abuses. For example, since we passed the fossil fuel divestment bill four years ago, we have reduced fossil fuel exposure by half and grown the portfolio by over a billion dollars. Less risky, fixed income investments are already looking more appealing to Maine fiduciaries.

Finally, we have an ethical obligation to do what's right, and take our money OUT of structures that cause pain and suffering, and that do so illegally. My coworkers were going to testify with me today, but they are busy responding to the crisis in our communities. ICE is here in Maine now, today, disappearing people off the street. Those are our neighbors, colleagues, classmates, and friends.

I leave you with these questions: How can we actively invest in their abduction? How can we look in the mirror or sleep at night knowing that not only did we not protect them, but we funded those who took them? That our investments paid for the weapons they use against us?

To me, being from Maine means we take care of our own and we don't borrow trouble when we don't need it. Continuing to invest in genocide is borrowing trouble. Please, please, please support LD 1383.