

Thea Hollman
Biddeford
LD 1383

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LD 1383, An Act To Require the State To Divest Itself of Assets Invested in Corporations That Contribute to Genocide and Human Rights Abuses.

My name is Thea Hollman and I am a resident of York County and I am writing to support LD1383 to prohibit the state of Maine from investing state resources into and generating profits from corporations that abuse human rights.

Currently, the Maine state pension fund invests in corporations that make profit off of current genocides and corporations that fuel the majority of ICE deportation flights, such as Palantir and Signature Aviations. I am appalled and grief stricken seeing news of fellow community members being kidnapped on the street and flown out of the country without due process and families being bombed in Palestine. I do not want my tax dollars to contribute to these crimes. By divesting from these and other such holdings that make up less than 1% of the total pension fund, we could align our dollars with our values without jeopardizing our pensions.

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 LD1383, 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.

Thea