

Erica Mercier  
Gorham  
LD 1383

Hello,

I am a municipal employee that contributes my salary to MPERS. I urge you to support LD 1383. The Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MPERS), makes the state complicit in human rights abuses by holding stock in companies that are contributing directly to genocide and the detention of our neighbors, examples include:

Signature Aviation (part of a \$141,000,000 fund) which fuels ICE deportation flights  
Palantir (\$19,873,138.56) which uses AI and surveillance to support deportation at home and genocides abroad.

Boeing (\$10,133,708.92) which supplies weapons of war used against civilians around the world.

We should standardize our investment practices in compliance with international law and cement Maine's reputation as a leader in responsible investment.

We have an ethical obligation.

I want my state to align with my principles of peace and safety for all. Our state money should be a force for good in the world, not used to fuel corporations that aid the detention of our neighbors and genocide.

Add personal life experiences that inform your ethical obligation.

Divestment is not a financial risk.

Our state employees, including myself, deserve to retire with dignity, and we can have a healthy, fully-funded pension that does not fund human rights abuses. If the MPERS investment team knows how to balance a \$22 billion pension fund to weather recessions, tariff wars, and COVID, reallocating the stocks in question, roughly less than 1% of the fund's assets, would be more than manageable in comparison.

We're not asking MPERS to do anything they haven't already done. Since we passed a fossil fuel divestment bill four years ago, MPERS reduced its fossil fuel exposure by half (7.8% to 3.9%) and the portfolio has grown by over \$1 billion dollars.

The MPERS investment team is already leaning away from public stocks and into less risky, fixed-income investments like bonds and alternative credit. LD 1383 would go hand in hand with this current "asset reallocation" or investment strategy by simply asking the MPERS board to identify harmful corporations and devise a financially prudent plan to replace them.