

Emmaline Raven
Portland
LD 1383

Good morning Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. I'm writing to you in 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."

Mainers deserve for our tax dollars to pay for things aligned with our values, and the values of the state at large. We are not pro-genocide or pro-human-rights-abuses and we should not be investing in companies (including Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Palantir) that supply weapons used to kill civilians in Gaza and provide weapons and surveillance technology to CBP and ICE so that they can racially profile and target Mainers and remove them across state borders or even deport them without due process.

This bill is financially sound, as well. Only 0.02% of the total pension fund is invested in Lockheed Martin, and estimates put the total investment into companies complicit in human rights abuses at 1-2%. This 1-2% isn't even a sound investment - these companies tend to bring in high short-term profits, followed by economic destabilization across international borders. Furthermore, Maine has done this before, with great success. In 2021, Maine passed LD 99, which led to the divestment of our pension from the fossil fuel industry, and the pension fund has grown by over \$1 Billion since then.

Thank you for your time and attention. I hope you will join me in supporting financially sound and ethical investments in Maine's future by recommending that the bill ought to pass.