

Gregory Tellier
Winthrop
LD 1383

Chair and members of the State and Local Government Committee:

First, thank you for your time and consideration for this important bill.

My name is Gregory Tellier, and I live in Winthrop and work in Auburn. I'm a freight conductor and engineering, responsible for moving the resources our communities rely on every day, including materials like propane in the winter.

In railroad work, risk is part of the job. Some risks are worth taking because they keep Maine running. We manage them with strong safety rules, training, and accountability. Because when things go wrong, people get hurt.

That's why I support LD 1383, An Act to Require the State to Divest Itself of Assets Invested in Corporations That Contribute to Genocide and Human Rights Abuses—and ask you to, as well.

There are risks that aren't worth taking, especially with public retirement money. The financial-risk memo on LD 1383 explains that Maine's public pension fund holds stock in companies including Boeing and Palantir, and argues these investments create legal and financial exposure when corporations are connected to serious human rights abuses. That kind of exposure isn't theoretical: it can mean lawsuits, reputational damage, and instability that ultimately threatens public trust and retirement security.

And it's not just financial. These investments can also contribute to tearing communities apart through war-making abroad and through surveillance, detention, and deportation systems closer to home. When public dollars support harm, we all pay the price.

This bill is also practical. The holdings that this bill references are a small slice of the overall fund (estimated at less than 1%), so divestment can be done without sacrificing performance.

I take risks at work to serve my neighbors and keep Maine connected. Maine should not take avoidable legal, financial, and moral risks with the retirement savings of public workers. Please do the right thing and support LD 1383's passage through this committee, as well as the full legislature.