

Taylor Treece
Augusta
LD 1383

Good morning.

My name is Taylor Treece, and I am from Augusta, Maine. I am here today to state my unequivocal support of LD 1383.

Maine's public funds are not neutral. They are currently invested in corporations that fuel detention, deportation, mass surveillance, and the killing of civilians. Those outcomes are not side effects, they are the business model. And when we invest, we are choosing participation.

LD 1383 exists because doing nothing is no longer defensible.

International law is clear: investors can be held responsible for enabling crimes against humanity and genocide. Maine is not immune from that reality. Continuing to invest in these corporations exposes our state to legal risk, moral failure, and lasting reputational harm. LD 1383 is the minimum step required to bring our practices in line with the law and with basic human decency.

Let's dispense with the myth that divestment is dangerous. The investments in question represent less than one percent of the pension fund. Maine's fiduciaries have already navigated fossil fuel divestment, market crashes, a pandemic, and global instability, while growing the fund. Reallocating away from human rights abuses is not a threat to retirees. Funding those abuses is.

Our public employees deserve dignified retirements, not pensions backed by detention centers and weapons systems. And Maine residents deserve a government that does not outsource violence for the sake of returns.

History will remember whether Maine chose caution or courage. LD 1383 is a chance to say, plainly, that our state will not profit from suffering, and that we will not wait to be forced into doing the right thing.

Pass LD 1383.

Thank you.