

## TALKING POINTS

### Maine LD 1383 “An Act To Require the State To Divest Itself of Assets Invested in Corporations That Contribute to Genocide and Human Rights Abuses”

- 1) LD 1383 is about ICE human rights abuses at home AND about genocides elsewhere; the two cannot be separated.
  - ***LD 1383 provides an opportunity for Maine to be a beacon of impartial justice.*** This legislation chooses one reasonable and widely-held standard and applies it consistently across all investments. By requiring divestment from *any* corporation that actively supports human rights abuses, the bill does not single out or target any one corporation or nation.
  - ***Human rights are for all people in all places.*** “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” Accountability for perpetrating or facilitating war crimes and crimes against humanity are foundational to the world order that emerged from the ashes of the Holocaust to protect vulnerable peoples – whoever and wherever they are.
  - ***Investing in human rights violations legitimizes ICE’s war on our neighbors.*** History shows that when perpetrators of crimes against humanity are not held to account and their crimes prove profitable abroad, their crimes are brought home to our own streets and communities. Companies testing technologies in genocides in other countries are frequently the same ones profiting from the persecution of our neighbors here at home, including materially supporting ICE’s operation “Catch of the Day” that rampaged across our state. Some of these companies supported by Maine tax dollars are:
    - **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 and sells planes to ICE.
    - **Signature Aviation (part of a \$141,000,000 fund)** which fuels ICE deportation flights out of Hanscom Field in northern Massachusetts, where Mainers detained by ICE are flown to out-of-state-prisons.
- 2) Investment is NOT a neutral stance: Divestment IS.
  - ***Investment constitutes actively supporting complicit corporations.*** Divestment is not controversial; the use of Maine tax dollars to support human rights violations is both controversial and indefensible.
  - ***When Maine invests in these companies, it legitimizes and financially incentivizes the manufacturing and supply of weapons, technologies, and services to entities, like ICE, that commit grave human rights abuses.***

**3) Divestment is legally and fiscally responsible.**

- ***LD 1383 mitigates legal risk.*** Under international law, entities that invest in corporations directly aiding human rights violations, including genocide, can be held liable.
- ***Corporations materially supporting human rights violations are risky investments.*** They can experience sudden and drastic price drops in the event of lawsuits or sanctions. LD 1383 mitigates this financial risk. For example, in October of 2025, the French bank BNP saw a sudden 20% price drop following a lawsuit that found it liable for aiding Sudan's genocidal regime.
- ***Our state employees deserve to retire with dignity, and we can have a healthy, fully-funded pension that does not fund human rights abuses.*** The Maine PERS investment team has proven it can 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, is more than manageable in comparison.
- ***We've done it before and we can do it again!*** We're not asking Maine fiduciaries to do anything they haven't already done. Since we passed a fossil fuel divestment bill four years ago, Maine PERS reduced its fossil fuel exposure by half (7.8% to 3.9%) and the portfolio has still grown by over \$1 billion dollars.