

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 6, 2006

Board of Administrators
Los Angeles City Employee Retirement System
360 East Second Street, Second Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Mail Stop: 175

Dear Board of Administrators:

We are writing to support the adoption of a “targeted” divestment policy for the Los Angeles City Employee Retirement System.

This policy follows California Assembly Bill 2941, which would mandate a targeted divestment from Sudan for the California State Teachers Retirement System (CalSTRS) and the California Public Employee Retirement System (CalPERS). On May 31, 2006, the California State Assembly overwhelmingly passed AB 2941 with a bipartisan vote of 72-4.

The numbers from Darfur are staggering: over 400,000 Darfurians have been murdered, over 2.5 million have been displaced, and 90 percent of Darfur’s villages have been razed. The government’s systematic policies of rape and denial of humanitarian aid serve as gruesomely effective adjunct tools in this genocidal campaign.

In response to this government-sponsored genocide, several states and universities, including the University of California system, have imposed varying restrictions on Sudan-related investments. Numerous other states, universities, and cities have taken divestment under consideration.

We fully recognize that the need for substantive divestment must be balanced by the equally important need to preserve prudent investor standards and portfolio health. We also recognize the Board’s primary obligation to sound investment of the city’s pension and the preference to engage rather than divest from offending companies. The unquestionably heinous nature of genocide, combined with numerous credible and official declarations of Sudanese atrocities as such, makes the call for Sudanese divestment unique and separable from other divestment campaigns.

The well documented and odious nature of the ongoing genocide places the city of Los Angeles in a unique position to influence the situation in Darfur in a financially prudent manner. We therefore urge the Board of Administrators to support the implementation of a “targeted” divestment policy. Los Angeles needs to send a clear and decisive message that it will not passively condone genocide.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Satch

Alma E. Watson

Herb A. Warner

Howard L. Berman

Hilda J. Sells

Mary Watts

James William S. Sorell