The **Private Prison Industry** has devastated immigrant communities across New Mexico and the United States: Corporations like CoreCivic and Geo Group profit off of the incarceration of marginalized communities, especially immigrant populations and people of color. Calls for “divestment” demand that entities with monetary stakes in the private prison industry withdraw their investments to reject the prison industrial complex, the violation of human rights, and the mistreatment of incarcerated people.

**1. Divestment is an effective method to bring about social change.**

Divestment has successfully served as a method to hold governments and corporations accountable by exerting economic and social pressure. A strong expression of moral dissent, divestment has drawn political attention to the South African apartheid government, the fossil fuel industry, the tobacco industry and now the private prison industry. Already, government funds like the NYC pension fund and universities such as the University of California schools and Columbia have divested from private prisons.

**2. No one should profit off the mass detention of immigrants.**

Individuals and institutions should consider the ethical consequences of investing in an industry that depends on the mass detention of immigrants. The profits gained from investment in private prisons that detain immigrants often stems directly from the incarceration of people who have committed no crime. The industry’s profits depend entirely on rates of incarceration and the ability to cut costs in detention centers. Many socially, ethically, and financially sound investment alternatives exist.

**3. Conditions of private prisons are deplorable, opaque, and unsafe.**

It has been well documented that private prisons are more unsafe than public prisons. Cibola Correctional Facility in NM, a prison run by CoreCivic, has witnessed hundreds of health and labor violations that have resulted in numerous deaths. Detainees are exploited to work for a dollar a day. Private detention centers experience more health violations, limited legal resources, prison labor, physical abuse, and solitary confinement.

**4. The for-profit model leads to more incarceration and bad conditions.**

It is not an accident that human rights abuses are rampant in private detention centers. It is intrinsic to the private prison model that costs are cut, resulting in unsafe environments. The industry depends on legislation that increases the “supply” of people to incarcerate. This has resulted in billions of dollars spent lobbying for “tough-on-crime” and anti-immigrant bills. The founder of CoreCivic, Tom Beasley once compared prisoners to hamburgers. But humans are not hamburgers, and we should not support industries that treat them as such.

"[CoreCivic] was founded on the principle that you could sell prisons 'just like you were selling cars, or real estate, or hamburgers.'"

- Tom Beasley, Cofounder of CoreCivic