

Dear secretary

I support the inquiry into the powers of states and territories within the Senate. I believe that all Australians are equal, disregarding where they may or may not live. It is preposterous that it has taken this long for an inquiry on this issue to be initiated. The territories have had unbalanced rights in favour of the states for a large amount of time and have had to make compromises on their ideas because of it.

Territories should be able to make their own laws and not have them denied by the federal government. Without this power the territories might not be able to make changes that the federal government might be oblivious to. This is but one reason why I support this bill.

It is unfair that the number of senators in Tasmania is six times the number representing the ACT when there is only a slightly higher population in Tasmania and much denser economic growth and activity in Canberra and surrounding regions. It would be fair for all states and territories to have equal rights. Although it may perhaps not be in the best interests of some people for the territories to have equal rights and powers, it is, I feel a good idea to let the territories to have these powers.

Thomas Downes