

I write as a citizen of Canberra for the past 42 years. I voted against the referendum for self-government and I have seen no evidence that its imposition has been good for Canberra.

I am concerned that a Tasmanian Senator seeks to change the existing powers of the Commonwealth and allocate those powers to the Federal Parliament to override any objectionable laws passed by Members of the Legislative Assembly. The existing federal control could only be improved by abolition of self-government, but this is a pipe dream that I have.

I doubt that very many Senators, or Members, would relish the prospect of having to review ACT Legislation and waste their valuable time debating issues that are managed at a higher level of government. It seems that Senator Brown's legislation is sending the message that federal parliamentarians need to spend more time in Canberra and less time dealing with important constituent matters. Senior Cabinet Ministers are better placed to review ACT matters.

I urge Senators to give no support to Senator Brown's Bill. Support for this Bill will surely result in further Bills from Senator Brown, which pale into insignificance when stacked up against more pressing national matters.

I seek leave to submit additional argument in the next few days.

Geoffrey Mongan