

Senate Committee

**Inquiry: Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Retaining Federal Approval Powers) Bill 2012**

I am writing to voice my objection to the individual states being given powers regarding Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation with relation to mining interests. I believe the Federal Government should retain all powers for the interest of all Australians. I believe that the natural environment needs to be preserved and protected and it is the responsibility of the Australian Federal Parliament to preserve our food and water resources above those of mining interests and the interests of their investors, many who are investing to make a profit on their investment and not to profit the communities affected by the decisions made. Some of these mines are short-term and offer no sustainability or benefit to the communities that they affect. Due to mining interests in Western Australia, I am no longer able to afford a home for my retirement. Due to mining interests in Western Australia the rental of properties in the mid-west region are now no longer affordable to people on pensions. A majority of people living in my region of birth are not Western Australian and I don't trust them to make a choice for the betterment or sustainability of my community. Mining affects the nation on a whole, and not just the state that is being mined. It leads to migration from state to state and therefore affects the viability of all settlements and investments throughout the nation. It is not a trivial matter and should not be treated that way by the individual states wanting to reap financial and political gain by overriding or bullying local communities or individuals for the benefit of a few.

Please allow the Federal Government to retain approval powers under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act for the longer term sustainability of our communities and our nation as whole.