



VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA - NEW SOUTH WALES CHAPTER INC.

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TIỂU BANG NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

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22 January 2009

Mr. John Carter
Committee Secretary
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee
Department of Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Re: Committee Inquiry into Fair Work Bill 2008

We write to express our support for the right of the Textile Clothing and Footwear Union of Australia (TCFUA) to have appropriate and sufficient legal powers to protect both exploited workers and honest responsible employers.

We strongly believe that the TCF Union has proven in the past that it represents the interests of exploited workers in the TCF industries, including those exploited workers who have not yet joined the TCFUA as members.

We also believe that honest responsible employers must not be undermined by less ethical competitors.

For these reasons, we urge the Senate Committee to recommend that the Unions in general and TCFUA be allowed appropriate and sufficient powers to protect workers and prevent exploitation in sweatshops.

We understand that the Unions in general and the TCFUA in particular wishes to have the powers to access records of work performed to ensure proper compliance with the law. We also understand that they are concerned about the fact that unscrupulous employers will try to cheat the system by altering those records.

Accordingly, we support the Union's request to ensure that employers strictly comply with the law and that unscrupulous employers cannot exploit any loopholes in the law to alter employment records or cheat the system.

We support any system that helps ensure that all employees receive correct wage payments and other entitlements and that vulnerable employees receive all proper legal protection against unethical and unscrupulous employers.

Yours sincerely,

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