



To the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT, 2600

I welcome the recent move towards the ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions because of the disruption and terrible human suffering that their use engenders.

However I urge the Parliament to amend the Criminal Code Amendment (Cluster Munitions Prohibition) Bill to prohibit the direct and indirect financing of companies involved in the production of cluster munitions. I also request that the section of the Bill that prohibits assistance in the use, production, development, stockpiling or trade in cluster munitions be amended to allow for prosecution of those who knew they were providing such assistance or should have reasonably known.

My further request is to see the current fine of \$330,000 be increased with a more reasonable maximum penalty of at least \$1.1 million.

Yours faithfully

Merilyn Bertram