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The Secretary

The Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

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**RE: Inquiry into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation
Amendment Bill 2008**

On behalf of the members of the Boating Industry Association of Victoria (BIAV), I am writing to express my full support for the submission made to the Inquiry by Marine Queensland and Australian Marine Industries Federation. BIAV represents 90% of the marine industry in Victoria with an economic value of approximately \$2 billion and which employs some 3000 people and services around 220 000 boaters in the State.

The marine industry strongly supports the protection of a clean and sustainable environment as the basis for an economically strong sector, and the social wellbeing of hundreds and thousands of Australians who choose boating as their preferred recreational activity.

The Bill that is currently before the Senate which seeks to amend the current GBRMPA Act is extremely concerning to BIAV, not just because of the dangerous and inequitable consequences for the marine industry in Queensland, but the precedents that rezoning along the principles contained in the Bill will set for the industry in other States.

RE: Inquiry into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008

BIAV strongly opposes several aspects of the amendments. In particular, we are concerned that

- the Bill lacks balance which will result in disadvantage to local communities and industries.
- the proposed changes if implemented are likely to result in more innocent boaters being charged with criminal offences (we understand that several hundred boaters have been convicted of inadvertent breaches and we support the reversal of this draconian action).
- the 'precautionary principal' will be applied without full consideration of the issues or any consequential analysis.
- the safety issues arising from the inability to use electronic equipment such as a depth sounder may result in boating injuries or deaths.

This brief submission serves as support for the MQ/AMIF submission which contains specific argument regarding the negative implications for the industry in Queensland.

Yours sincerely

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