

23rd August 2007

Committee Secretary
Senate Economics Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Re: Inquiry into the Provisions of the Trade Practices Amendment (Small Business Protection) Bill 2007.
Enforcing the secondary boycott of the Trade Practices Act 1974.

To the Committee Members

I strongly object to the proposed reforms which will empower the ACCC to take legal action against those calling for consumers to boycott products on ethical grounds.

Such powers would further erode freedom of speech and democracy in this country, by silencing those with legitimate concerns about unethical practices by business and denying consumers the right to be fully informed about the products they choose.

The reforms favour profit over ethics and democratic rights, and should be rejected.

Yours sincerely

Richard Bulmer