7th JUNE 2009.

TO ALL INVOLVED IN THE RAIL ROAD SCRAPING OF THE 23AG TAX LAW. MY NAME IS MIKE HOLT. I AM A 43 YEAR OLD MALE. I WORK AS A SIMPLE CRANE OPERATOR OFFSHORE IN WEST AFRICA. THE CONDITIONS ARE HARSH, AND AT TIMES EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. THE MONEY IS OK. BUT NOT GREAT. I AM NOT HERE FOR THE MONEY, BUT THE SATISFACTION THAT MY COMPANY CHOOSE ME TO TRAIN AND PROMOTE SAFTEY STANDARDS TO PEOPLE THAT ARE KEEN TO LEARN NEW SKILLS AND EXERCISE THEM IN A PART OF THE WORLD, WHERE THEY ARE LACKING. I VERY MUCH ENJOY MY JOB.

AND THEN COMES THE THE SIDE BALL OUT OF NO WHERE, THAT WE HAVE TWO MONTHS BEFORE WE ARE GOING TO BE PAYING FULL TAX ON OUR INCOMES BACK HOME IN AUSTRALIA, AS WELL AS THE TAX WE PAY OVERSEAS. WELL I CAN TELL YOU THAT IT WILL HAVE SERVERE REPRUCUSSIONS TO MYSELF AND THE SMALL NUMBER OF EXPATS WORKING IN THE SMALL OIL FIELD I WORK ON. WE HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS GETTING A PAYSLIP OUT OF THE COMPANY I WORK FOR, NEVER MIND A TAX LETTER FOR OUR TAX DEPT, WITH ALL THE IMFOMATION INVOLVED TO RECEIVE A TAX CREDIT. SO IT LOOKS LIKE I WILL HAVE TO PAY A DOUBLE TAX. I AM ONLY IN AUSTRALIA FOR A MAXIMUM OF 4 MONTHS A YEAR. MOST OF WHICH I SPEND WITH MY GROWN UP FAMILILY AND FRIENDS. FIGHTING BUSH FIRES (9 YEARS AS A VOLLUNTER. YES VOLLUNTER FIRE FIGHTER) SPENDING MY MONEY ON SMALL LOCAL SHOPS AND SERVICES IN MY AREA, AS I AM STAUNCH IN MY IDEALS OF SUPPORTING THE BATTLING SERVICES THAT ARE STRUGGLING TO STAY AFLOAT IN THESE ECONOMIC TIMES..

I WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT, THE OUTCOMES ARE BEFORE I MAKE A DECISSION ON WHAT I CAN DO, TO DECREASE THE EXTRA BURDEN, THIS WILL PLACE ON ME. SOME OF THE OPTIONS ARE TO RETURN TO AUSTRALIA AND SEEK WORK. AT LEAST IF I DO MANAGE TO GAIN EMPLOYMENT I WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO SUPER / RETIERMENT AND PAID LEAVE IN SOME INSTANCES, SAFE TRAVEL, GOOD MEDICAL SERVICES ETC ETC. I AM EVEN CONSIDERING SELLING UP AND MOVE TO A COUNTRY, NOW MY KIDS HAVE GROWN UP. MAYBE A BIT CLOSER TO WORK, WITH A FAIRER TAX SYSTEM THAN THE ONE THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO IMPOSE ON US

I PAY MY RATES, INSURANCES, LICENCES AND GST, HBF AND NOT LONG AGO MY CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS. AND I VOTE AS A PROUD AUSTRALIAN. AS A PROUD AUSTRALIAN IT IS WEARING THIN, WITH DECISSIONS LIKE THIS ONE. I HAVE ALLWAYS PROMOTED MY COUNTRY WHERE EVER I HAVE TRAVELLED. WHY SHOULD WE BE ANY DIFFERENT TO CHARITY WORKERS OR DEFENCE PERSONEL. SOUNDS LIKE DESCRIMANATION. NOT ALL OF US ARE ON HOLLYWOOD WAGES AND WHEN WE STEP ON THAT PLANE TO TRAVEL, IT IS NO HOLIDAY I CAN ASSURE YOU OF THAT...

I IMPLORE YOU TO RECONSIDER THESE NEW LAWS, OR AT LEAST HAVE A GOOD HARD LOOK AT THE REPRUCUSSIONS THE RAIL ROAD TATICS OF AXING THIS LAW, WITHOUT ANY REAL TIME CONSIDERATION TO THE SMALL NUMBER OF HONEST, HARD WORKING PERSONEL WHO USE THIER SKILLS IN SO MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD IN MANY FIELDS OTHER THAN DEFENCE AND AS CHARITY WORKERS. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR TIME.

BEST REGARDS MICHAEL HOLT