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**From:** bert lawatsch [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 22 September 2021 7:13 PM

**To:** Secretary <Secretary@justice.tas.gov.au>; Have Your Say <HaveYourSay@justice.tas.gov.au>

**Subject:** Workplaces Bill

Dear Secretary

I am writing to register my **opposition** to the proposed anti-protest laws – the Workplaces (Protection from Protesters) Amendment Bill 2021.

You can't ban people's love for nature but that is what you aim to do with these unnecessary and draconian laws.

A better strategy would be to outlaw the progressive destruction of Tasmania's natural beauty by profiteers, who are increasingly out-of-state (and out of country!) and with no regard for Tasmanians or Tasmania's world class ecosystems.

These laws will end up putting good, sincere people, from all walks of life, in jail. They will not stop peaceful protests against the invasion of rainforests, native forests, oceans and other ecosystems.

The right to protest is fundamental to a robust and healthy democracy and should be enshrined by you our political leaders rather than curtailed. From land rights, the environment, equality and worker's rights, peaceful protest has been an integral part of Australia and shaping our nation's healthy democracy.

Protests have traditionally protected Tasmania's outstanding wild places, including the Franklin River, Styx Valley of the Giants and the wildlife rich native forests around the state. Our special places and tourism icons that contribute to the economy and wellbeing of all Tasmanians have been protected by citizens who protested.

Police already have numerous powers to remove and charge people engaged in non-violent direct actions in Tasmania. Activists already face jail terms for non-violent action. Any new laws, such as these new anti-protest laws are unnecessary, harsh and excessive.

I want you to stop wasting time and money on laws to protect the ruthless destruction of Tasmania's wild places. Your government needs to cease the drawn-out attempt to introduce laws that shield business from public criticism and rule economic interests of corporations over the civil liberties of individuals.

We are witnessing the rapid destruction of Tasmania's native forests from logging, mining threats to world heritage value rainforests, and toxic pollution of our oceans from fish farms as well as a decline in river health of many of Tasmania's rivers. Many of our wildlife species are on the path to extinction due to this destruction.

The government and the corporations they are trying to protect from scrutiny are responsible for all of this. They want to penalise the citizens who call for conservation and protection of Tasmania's wild and globally significant eco-systems rather than address the issues.

Instead of introducing the proposed anti-protest laws please introduce laws that will outlaw the activities and crimes against the planet that loggers, miners, fish farmers commit every day. I would be more than happy to support such a Bill.

Sincerely  
Bert Lawatsch