

**From:** Hugh Nicklason  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 September 2021 9:24 PM  
**To:** Secretary  
**Subject:** Workplaces Bill

**Categories:** Emma

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to express my dismay at the Anti-Protest Bill scheduled to be voted on by the Tasmanian parliament in the near future (let us not fool around and pretend this bill is being instated to protect workers or 'workplaces' - it is being promoted in an attempt to quash government and corporate dissent). Protest and open affiliation is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy. It encourages progression, and holds those whom would corrupt our system accountable. The idea that we would criminalise this is not only wrong, but scary. It's (repeated) proposal insinuates that there are members of our government whom do not respect true democracy, and would rather see opposing views silenced and imprisoned. It is my belief that this bill would be incredibly damaging to our democracy, and would move us yet another step closer to authoritarianism. Combined with new state and federal laws such as the major projects bill and national security overreaches, I have grave concerns for the future of this country.

As a young person, this bill also raises serious questions about our ability to address climate change as citizens - an existential crisis which the government is clearly not addressing with adequate action. A few obvious beneficiaries of this proposed bill are the fossil fuel, mining, and forestry industries. Combined these industries are largely responsibly for the crisis in the first place (let us not get caught up in fabricated and misleading figures that may suggest otherwise), and to protect them by locking up those whom would take action against is unconscionable. Instead of promoting climate action, we are seeing an active attempt to quash it. I would beg any member of parliament to consider deeply the consequences of this on their children, grandchildren, and future generations.

I would also like to discuss here whom exactly this bill will 'protect'. As already noted, it is big industry - extractive and exploitative giants. With a history of political donations coming from these industries to major political parties, the question of vested interests stands begging. How much have these corporations donated in return for parliament to pass such laws? Tasmania has some of the least transparent political donation laws in the developed world, so it is difficult to say. I would suggest that if we were working towards a healthy democracy, more transparency and an end to corporate donations would be an appropriate path forward - not the criminalisation of those who would attempt to hold legal corruption accountable.

Finally, I would make a call for us to act in unity as fellow citizens of Tasmania. While we may have disagreements in how things are run, we are not incompatible as human beings. But we all need to be heard and listened to, and discussions must be had on a human level. Our protest is a last attempt at gaining a voice - we have exhausted all other avenues over and over to no prevail. To imprison us up for expressing a desire for positive change and hope for a safe future will never help us to heal divides, but only widen them and cause deep societal damage.

For democracy and for our society, please do not pass these draconian and authoritarian laws.

With regards,

Hugh F Nicklason