

Dear Senator Dastyari

I am a construction industry worker in New South Wales and I am writing to you to oppose the *Construction Industry Amendment (Protecting Witnesses) Bill 2015*, which is currently before the Senate.

Despite the positive spin indicated by the title of the Bill, it will actually have a direct negative impact on me and my colleagues in the construction industry.

The Bill extends powers under the *Fair Work (Building Industry) Act* to exercise coercive information gathering powers by two years until 1 June 2017, which would otherwise expire on 1 June 2015.

These coercive powers mean that I am treated differently under the law to workers in any industry outside of construction, even though they might be doing the same job.

The reason there was an expiry on these powers was because they were so exceptional in two main ways:

- They compel workers in the construction industry to produce information, documents or evidence to an investigation into a suspected contravention of the *Fair Work (Building Industry) Act* or other building laws; and
- It removes the basic right to privilege against self-incrimination. Any person is not excused on the grounds that to do so might tend to incriminate the person or otherwise expose the person to a penalty or other liability.

These powers effectively force me to give evidence in investigations against my colleagues and myself or face severe penalties.

I'm all for just laws and equality in our society, which is why I don't see why I any my colleagues in the construction industry should be singled out to be the subject of heavy handed laws.

I am asking you, please, protect construction workers in your home state from unfair and inequitable laws and vote against the *Construction Industry Amendment (Protecting Witnesses) Bill 2015*.

Yours sincerely

Signed .....Date .....

Name .....

Address .....