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Subject: My submission about the Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

To: Members of the Finance and Administration Committee

I am employed in _____ and I wish to make a submission in favour of the Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 because it will directly impact me, my family, my colleagues and the community.

As a result of the Industrial Relations (Fair Work Act Harmonisation No. 2) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 I lost many valuable conditions from my Industrial Award, and many provisions that could be bargained for in enterprise bargaining were removed from me and my colleagues. For example, protections about job security and consultation about workplace change were completely removed by this legislation of the Newman government.

The ability to negotiate and bargain with management is severely diminished under the Newman laws which unfairly advantage the employer over the employee leaving one with limited capacity to influence conditions in the workplace and a feeling of personal disempowerment.

Job security for me and my workplace colleagues is of paramount importance and the imbalance in power the Newman laws invite have given rise to a heightened sense of uncertainty and anxiety in myself around my capacity to support my family into the future.

The experience and privilege of working for the public service in the common goal of serving the local community is also, in my opinion, weakened when there is such uncertainty around tenure in the workplace.

The right to organise collectively to achieve better working rights and conditions is a basic human right. The Newman government undemocratically curtailed this right and as a result lost the 2015 Queensland election. At the election a majority of Queenslanders supported parties and candidates who advocated a restoration of these basic rights. Please respect the voice of Queenslanders and the rights of workers and vote to restore fairness by supporting this bill.

I fully support the committee to recommend passage of this bill to restore the fairness, equity and rights of workers in local government.

Yours sincerely

Peter Gavegan
