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Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees  
on Education, Employment  
and Workplace Relations  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Committee Secretary

20<sup>th</sup> September 2012

**Fair Work Amendment (Small Business Penalty Rate Exemption) Bill 2012**

I run a small business employing less than twenty full time equivalent employees.

I wish to provide my absolute support for the passage of this Bill through Parliament as my labour costs have blown out since the introduction of the Restaurant Industry Award regulating wages and penalty rates.

If penalty rates were abolished not only would my business be more viable on weekends I would consider employing more casual employees.

Consumers expect restaurants and cafes to trade 24/7 - especially in a regional town where there might be nothing else open for visitors - yet this can only be achieved if it is commercially viable to trade through de-regulation of the mandatory penalty rates applied under the Modern Industrial Award system.

Yours faithfully

**Susan and Andrew Forrest – Owners (our wages are nearly 50% of our running costs)**