

The Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via email - economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Hawkins

Inquiry into the Customs Amendment (Anti-dumping Measures) Bill 2011

The Australian Workers' Union (AWU) welcomes the proposed amendments to the extent they clarify laws governing the process for reviewing anti-dumping measures. Measures should not be removed prematurely aimed at preventing dumping, subsidisation and/or injury, prior to due consideration by the Minister.

At the same time, while recognising the proposed amendments tighten existing requirements aimed at limiting the prospects for preemptory removal of dumping and countervailing duties aimed at avoiding material injury on Australian industry, the AWU encourages the Economics Committee to consider the positive merits of the amendments contained in the Customs Amendment (Anti-dumping) Bill 2011 sponsored by Senator Nick Xenophon.

Simply put, current measures do not adequately address dumping and subsidies even if measures are retained for longer in certain cases. The latter Bill on the other hand would hard-wire reforms aimed at expanding both the scale and the scope for Customs taking action proactively aimed at responding more effectively to dumping in the first place.

The AWU has made a separate submission to the inquiry by the Economics Committee on the Customs Amendment (Anti-dumping) Bill.¹

In addition, on 20 April 2011, in partnership with the AMWU and CFMEU, the AWU hosted a roundtable on dumping bringing together many of Australia's major manufacturers. The roundtable - also attended by Senator Xenophon and the Hon

¹ **The Australian Workers' Union Submission to The Senate Economics Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Customs Amendment (Anti-Dumping) Bill 2011, 31 March 2011**

Bob Katter – discussed the challenges posed by dumping and subsidies and actions which could be taken to address them more effectively.

Our unions drafted an Issues Paper in order to facilitate discussion.² A copy of the paper is attached.

The paper includes a number of additional policy options to those proposed in both the current Bill and the Customs Amendment (Anti-dumping) Bill for consideration by the Economics Committee in the course of its deliberations.

Our recommendations and set of principles are aimed squarely at achieving a much firmer response by the Australian Government against injurious dumping and subsidies in line with our WTO, rights, obligations and entitlements.

Yours in Unity

Paul Howes
NATIONAL SECRETARY

² Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU), The Australian Workers' Union (AWU), Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU)
ISSUES PAPER, Anti-Dumping Roundtable, 20 April 2011, Sydney