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2 October 2009

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Telecommunications Regulation – Objection to proposed reforms to the telecommunications regulation in Australia

We refer to the announcement on 15 September 2009 by Stephen Conroy, the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, regarding the proposed fundamental reforms to existing telecommunications regulation in Australia. We specifically refer to the proposal to force Telstra to structurally separate or be penalised by the government.

Telstra was sold to its shareholders by the Federal Government and it is outrageous for the government to now change the legislation so recently after selling it to force Telstra to divest those assets back to the government or sell to third parties.

Having the Australian Government command a publicly listed company to sell its assets is unprecedented in this country, and is contrary to every shareholder's right. The only precedence for this type of behaviour is from non-democratic foreign government regimes.

The proposed change to the existing telecommunications regulation in Australia will have a destructive effect on the shareholder value of all 1.4 million of Telstra's shareholders.

For the above reasons we would like to lodge our strong objection to the proposed reforms to the telecommunications regulation in Australia, specifically the forcing of Telstra to structurally separate and divest itself of some its assets and request that the proposed reforms be scrapped.

Signed

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