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TO: The Secretary  
Senate ECITA References Committee  
S1.57, Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**SUBMISSION**  
**Re: ABC BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

1. The Board of the ABC must be made up of people who are not (in any way) identifiably party political or with any conflicting commercial interests.
2. To ensure the independence of the ABC Board, the privilege to appoint members of the Board must be removed from any Australian Government. History has shown that neither major political party can be trusted not to 'stack' the board when the opportunity arises.
3. I have no problem with appointments being made within the parliamentary system – taxpayers funds being involved. (The ABC Board should be accountable to the parliament, not the government).
4. **I suggest appointments to the ABC Board could be made by a special Parliamentary Committee, which, by law, contains one representative each from all parties currently holding a seat in the parliament (both houses). This includes one representative, only, from the total number of sitting independents.**
5. Applicants for the ABC Board should be interviewed by the special Parliamentary Committee (above) and applications could be as a result of public advertisement, public nomination and even parliamentary nomination. The ABC Staff Representative on the ABC Board should remain.
6. There should be, by law, an appropriate, and publically known, assessment criteria which would ensure members of the Board would be selected for their commitment, not only to the independence (politically and commercially) of the ABC, but to the public broadcaster itself.

This would go some way to help to overcome the prevailing perception of reward for services rendered, or even worse, about to be rendered!

7. Your terms of reference suggest that there is a lack of public confidence in the independence and representativeness of the ABC as the national broadcaster. Rest assured there is.

**It is imperative that interference in any way by partisan politics be actively and aggressively excluded.**

8. We all have our private political views, and it is a measure of the success of the independence (against the odds) of the ABC that it is accused, on a regular basis, of political bias by both sides – bias is in the eye of the beholder and the ear of the listener.

Yvonne Taylor.