

Dear Senators,

Don't abolish the employee director's position on the ABC!

1. It looks bad for you if you do. Do you want to confirm in everybody's minds that you are jackboot neocons whose true aim in life is to crush the worker? Even though I'm sure this isn't the case, your Government's actions are making it look like it is. Senator Minchin confirmed all our worries had a foundation as have the actions of the many companies who've so far taken advantage of your IR legislation to sack workers to rehire for less pay. Heaving an ABC worker off the Board reinforces the bad impression you're having on us all. Think about your credentials for the next election!

2. Having a senior, intelligent worker on the Board is good for the ABC as it provides the Board with real life input and expertise it won't get any other way. I am the director of a public company which has workers on the Board and I know from experience that this is the case. If Board members find having a worker sitting with them threatening or difficult, then perhaps they should be counselled or queried as to their attitudes to their position. If the worker is not a "good" director, then action should be taken against that person, not against the position itself.

3. The Government is big enough and ugly enough to take care of itself without needing to hamstring the ABC. While your motives may be "pure", it comes across to us voters that what you are trying to do is produce a more compliant ABC. You don't need this...what you need is an organisation which tries to fairly deal with all sides of politics and current events and if this means beating you over the head from time to time, then be grown up enough to take it! Everybody else has to, why shouldn't you?

Sincerely,  
Marea Howe