

Committee Secretary,  
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Committee,  
Department of the Senate, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

The bastion of democratic expression, thought and ideas - THAT is what our ABC used to represent - freedom of speech, unstained by corporate interests and government influence.

It is reprehensible that the position of staff-elected director be abolished and the public not be given the opportunity to discuss and debate this change of direction. For years now, we have seen the constant diminution of funds to ABC, resulting in less Australian and more American content.

The staff-elected position on the ABC Board is of the utmost importance, enabling the representation of the general public and allowing some balance, preventing the possibility of a government of any persuasion, stacking the Board.

The independence of the ABC Board is of paramount importance and it is imperative that we maintain this status.

It is time to stop the erosion of democracy and our ABC, which, until now, has been the backbone of free speech and must never be allowed to be emasculated.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)  
Fairlie Ferguson