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6th July 2007

Committee Secretary
Senate Economics Committee
Department of the Senate
P.O. Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

I am writing to support the Family First Trade Practices Amendment (Predatory Pricing) Bill 2007.

It has been far too long in coming as small businesses have continued to suffer at the hands of large enterprises. If a corporation sells a product below cost, and this should also take into account the petrol discount docket, then this action should be regarded as predatory. Large corporations sell other products at higher prices to offset the fuel discount. These products in some instances can not be offered by a competitor such as our selves eg: 20 cents per litre off the price of fuel if you buy 6 bottles of wine, or spend over \$30.00 in a Coles or Woolworths Liquor Store and receive 4 cents per litre off your fuel purchase. I am not allowed to compete by law as I own a Service Station/Convenience Store. Remember also the smaller liquor stores which are family businesses cannot compete against this either.

I know this is a State by State law (Liquor) and needs to be looked at that level, however you are now in a position with this Bill to stop this predatory pricing behaviour by these larger corporations.

This bill by its nature will go a long way to curbing the behaviour of the large corporations that have the power to sell below cost with the intention of getting rid of the small competitor. The size of these corporations simply means that if they discount at only a few locations, below cost has an infinitesimal effect on their profits.

Reading the Bill of the Government shows me it does not have the teeth to stop this predatory behaviour.

Yours Sincerely
APCO Service Stations Pty Ltd

Peter J. Anderson
DIRECTOR