Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

Submission to the Inquiry into the Fair Work Amendment (Small Business-Penalty Rates Exemption) Bill 2012

Dear Mr Xenophon, I have in the past egreed with some of your policies and general ideals in the political arena, but this policy to axe or even reduce penalty rates for workers, (yes WORKERS) would be sending our living standards back 20 to 30 years and causing a greater divide between the have's and the have nots. Have a closer look at how the American systen works, and as a traveled person, the Amarican system doesn't work very well at all. You will be causing these so called small businesses you are trying to help actually close their doors for good. The people that work there simply will quit. They will not be able to survive on the base wages that would be on offer. Maybe your master plan is to give all the basic minimum wage jobs to imported workers along the same path as the fruit pickers. Isn't that working well for Coles and Woolworths. I go out on a regular basis and I will cease this practice if I am expected to pay the diference in the lack of wages of these staff by tipping. I will stay home and entertain. Who are you really helping? These strugling small businesses have a

choice, if they are losing so much money by having to pay penalty rates, simply dont open after hours. It isn't hard to do the economics. They want to have their cake and eat it. If this bill is passed I for one will start looking at other means to do my shopping and will not frequent my local bars, cafes and restaurants. If you are serious about helping small business you should reduce the taxes empossed on them and also look at landlord's taxes a little closer.

Submitted by
Mark Bondfield
Thursday 13th of September 2012