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To Consultation/DTF@DTF
 cc
 bcc
 Subject INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTER'S
 PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS
 COMPENSATION AND FIRE
 SERVICES LEGISLATION
 AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017

Dear Assistant Clerk Committees,

**INQUIRY INTO THE FIREFIGHTER'S PRESUMPTIVE RIGHTS COMPENSATION
 AND FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2017**

I have been a leading fire fighter with the MFB for 5 years. I am a Teleboom operator and Modular transporter operator.

I live in the suburb of Tecoma which is outside the Metropolitan Fire District, even though it is well and truly within the Melbourne metro area.

I am writing this submission in support of the proposed reform of the fire services for the following reasons:-

- You are not splitting the CFA up you are consolidating the asset that is Victoria's Professional fire fighters.
- There should not be red tape and imaginary borders restricting the ability of fire fighters to assist in emergencies.
- The roll of fire fighters has expanded over the years to include specialist skills and community programs that will undoubtedly improve community safety and resilience.
- With skills and programs such as, Road accident rescue, Trench rescue, Confined space rescue , Hazmat, High Angle Rescue, Urban search and Rescue, Marine response, Response to hostile acts, JFAIP, Community Resilience programs, Fire-ed for prep and grade 6 children and very importantly EMR. The valuable volunteers of this state simply cannot be expected to take the load of that amount of training and skill retention.
- With one full time fire service the entire state can benefit from these skills and programs covering all urban areas and the volunteers will be free to continue as they always have, serving their communities and responding to incidents with the support of this new Fire service.
- Fire fighter safety and community safety will be insured by the minimum standard of a 2 truck response with a minimum 7 fire fighters dispatched within 90sec in all metropolitan areas not just those within the out-dated MFD border.
- In my 5 years as a fire fighter I have spent weeks fighting the fire at Hazelwood power station and fought house fires containing asbestos and many other incidents. I feel that I have been let down in the past by politician's in relation to Presumptive legislation. Cancer is one of the biggest risks to fire fighters and Presumptive Legislation needs to be implemented now for the sake of all fire fighters and their

families.

Yours sincerely,
Jesse Smith

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[REDACTED]

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