

Committee Secretary  
Local Government and Environment  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

7th September 2015

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RE: Environmental Protection Authority (Protection of Environment) Amendment Bill

I support the members Bill that amends the Environmental Protection Authority Act 2011 (EPA Act) to add an additional objective that the organisation must aim to protect, maintain, and enhance New Zealand's environment.<sup>1</sup>

It seems obvious that the statute which established the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) should require it to protect the environment. Right now it doesn't. It only requires it to contribute to the efficient, effective, and transparent management of New Zealand's environment and natural and physical resources. This was a gap which should be filled, and which the Environmental Protection Authority (Protection of Environment) Amendment Bill will fix: it will require it to provide for the objective of protect, maintain, and enhance New Zealand's environment.

The EPA has been established by the Environmental Protection Authority Act 2011 (EPA Act) as the Government Agency that is responsible for the regulatory management of Aotearoa's environment. However, the EPA, despite its name of environmental protection, omits to consider environmental protection in its objectives.

I believe that if New Zealand wants to uphold its international reputation of having a clean, green environment, then the Government Agency responsible for the regulatory management of the environment needs to have the protection of the environment as a core objective. I believe that the Bill, by inserting the words into its objective under section 12 "protects, maintains, and enhances New Zealand's environment" gives the EPA more clarity in its role. This would bring New Zealand into line with other countries such as Ireland, Australia and the United States.

Put it the other way: who seriously believes that the EPA should not promote the protection of New Zealand's environment? Let's pass the Bill now.

Name

Address

Email

**I wish to appear before the Select Committee**

**I would like KASM (Kiwis Against Seabed Mining) to speak on my behalf before the Select Committee**

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<sup>1</sup> **4 Section 12 amended (Objective of EPA)**

(1) In section 12(1)(b), after "obligations", insert "; and".

(2) In section 12(1), after paragraph (b), insert:

“(c) protects, maintains, and enhances New Zealand's environment.”