Date

 Secretariat,

Māori Affairs Select Committee Office

Parliament Buildings

WELLINGTON 6011

RE: CANTERBURY REGIONAL COUNCIL (NGĀI TAHU REPRESENTATION) BILL

Thank you for the opportunity to have a say on the Canterbury Regional Council (Ngāi Tahu Representation) Bill. Please see my comments below:

**I do not support the Bill.**

I am opposed to the purpose of the Act, that is, to enable Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to appoint up to 2 members to the Canterbury Regional Council.

**Therefore, I recommend that the government reject this Bill in its entirety.**

Reasons for my opposition to the Bill

The Bill introduces a radical departure from our democratic principles

This has implications for the rights and interests of the wider community

It is a threat to the principle of equality for all citizens

It bypasses democracy’s prospect of ejection of the powerful by those subject to power

It establishes a system that gives special governance privileges to one sector of the community, and by doing so discriminates against the rest of the population. It is discriminatory to wield inherited power over fellow citizens within the local government organs that should be there for all without discrimination

The potential for serious conflicts of interest issues to arise when the commercial interests of Ngāi Tahu are brought into consideration

Recommendation

Anything less than 100 percent elected members on our governing bodies is unacceptable.

As this bill is making a major constitutional change to local governance arrangements, those seeking to institute special governance privileges to one sector of the community must attain a mandate from the community through a binding referendum.

**Therefore, I recommend that** **the Government reject this bill in its entirety.**

Conclusion

If the bill becomes law, Ngai Tahu will have rights and privileges greater than those of other citizens. It introduces inequality, and contravenes te Tiriti o Waitangi, which promised Māori “the same rights and duties of citizenship.” It is a form of institutionalised racism, which should have no place in our nation’s future.

Thank you

Name