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**Submission to The Fire Services Bill Select Committee**

I am addressing the term of reference: - d. underlying policy rationale

I respectfully acknowledge to the committee that I am stating what is already known, however I still cannot believe that the situation has come this far despite the past events.

The former Minister for Emergency Services refused to accept the UFU proposals on changes to the CFA. The minister was replaced by a new minister.

The former CEO of the CFA resigned due to an inability to accept proposed changes to the CFA. A temporary CEO was appointed.

The previous Board of the CFA was not able to adopt (under legal advice) the UFU proposals on changes to the CFA policy. This board was terminated and replaced with new members by the new Minister for Emergency Services. The new Board could not agree on the UFU proposals.

The former Chief Officer could not agree to the UFU proposals and resigned.

Despite all of these appointed officials; Minister, Board Members, CEO and Chief Officer, determining that the proposals by the UFU were not acceptable, the proposal can now be accepted because of a change in the name of the firefighting agency. How can it now be acceptable?

This appears to be an unprecedented level of power over a democratically elected government by a small industrial union. And it will cost the tax payers of Victoria a very large amount of money.

The current Victorian firefighting agencies are working well. Any entity has a need to improve and the fire services are not exempt, however it is difficult for me to believe how this policy is good for all Victorians, and has only been formulated to appease a small number of people.

*CFA Volunteer 30+ years*