To: Committee Secretariat
Māori Affairs Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington
By email ma@parliament.govt.nz

From: XYZ District Maori Council

Submission on the Electoral (Entrenchment of Maori Seats) Amendment Bill

1. I am the chairperson of the XYZ District Maori Council
2. The XYZ District Maori Council is a body corporate established under the Maori Community Development Act 1962. The Council is comprised of representatives of the Maori Committees of the ABC district.
3. The District Maori Councils are authorised by section 16 of the Act to make this submission.
4. On behalf of the District Maori Council I support the entrenchment of the Maori Seats so that, while the boundaries and number may be amended for proportionality, they can never be removed entirely or reduced below four, representing nga hau e wha (the four winds). The reasons follow.
5. Maori have constitutional status as first peoples. The Maori seats represent that status.
6. As the first people, they have interests distinct from and frequently in conflict with the post Treaty settler population.
7. The distinct interest which Maori have may cover all aspects of life from the care of the land to the care of the people.
8. Only the representatives of the Maori seats can effectively represent the distinct Maori interests. Those on general seats have responsibilities in relation to the total district population and a personal interest in maintaining the interests of the majority. The majority are not Maori and their interests may conflict.
9. I see the primary purpose of the representatives of the Maori seats as being to protect Maori interests and to ensure the survival of the Maori culture. To achieve that the seats must stand outside of majoritarian politics.
10. I am the contact person for the purpose of this submission. My preferred form of contact is by email the address for which is in the email accompanying this submission That email also gives my phone number.

Date:

Sign

Print name