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The Honourable Members,  
House of Representatives & the Senate Chamber,  
Australian Parliament.

Dear Members of Parliament

12<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

**RE: Julian Assange, an Australian son to be abandoned or rescued?**

Last week was the tenth anniversary of Julian Assange's initial arrest by English authorities over his release of whistle-blower documents through his WikiLeaks media organisation. As a person with conservative beliefs in both his life and political persuasions, witnessing a fellow Australian sitting in a foreign jail waiting for extradition to a foreign nation for imprisonment for up to 175 years does not sit well with me.

As a conservative I believe in small government and the rights and freedoms of the individual over the state. The freedom of expression, the freedom of speech, thought and religion I hold close to my heart. To be able to have those freedoms requires constant oversight of our elected members of parliament and their appointed bureaucrats. This oversight needs to come from within and without.

While I understand Mr Assange's methods may be controversial to some, I believe that despite these methods, controversial or otherwise, Mr Assange plays an important role in any western democracy. To ensure corruption is limited within any government requires avenues that can expose it, Mr Assange's actions have done just that.

I outline my arguments in an article I wrote for my online paper which you can access by [CLICKING HERE](#).

As a federal member of parliament, you have a unique opportunity to lobby the United States, in particular, the White House and President Trump. All American presidents in their last days in office can be generous with whom they offer Presidential pardons. Considering both President Trump and Mr Assange have both fought against what they see as the deep state a sympathetic hearing may be extended to any lobbying from Australian politicians on Mr Assange's behalf.

I will be certainly doing so until Inauguration Day in the United States, after which it may prove to be too late. Ask yourself what crime other than to shine a light on potential corruption has Mr Assange committed? Read my article and consider your own ethical standards and to those that we aspire to as a nation. If you can stand by and watch a fellow Australian being potentially imprisoned for life in a foreign jail then to be blunt you don't represent the Australia I believe in

**THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW!**

Finally to those of you who have acted on Mr Assange's behalf, I thank you, but I also ask that you redouble your efforts in these few short weeks that we have remaining. Feel free to follow me on our Twitter feed as we strive to bring Assange's situation to the attention of those close to President Trump.

We will be tweeting every day through to the 20<sup>th</sup> of January, 2021, why not follow and join us no matter your political persuasion.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Mann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bob Mann

Director/Owner

The Community Forum online newspaper