



Premier of Bermuda

9th March 2016

Mr. Chris Furbert
President
Bermuda Industrial Union
49 Union Square
Hamilton HM 12

Dear Mr. Furbert,

This will respond to your letter of March 8, 2016, advising that "If the Government is determined to move forward with the [Bermuda Immigration and Protection Amendment Act 2016]", then the General Council of the BIU will call on ALL people to protest... by withdrawing their labour for one day on Friday, March 11, 2016."

Your letter states that it is Government's intent to debate the Bill in Parliament on Friday, 11 March 2016. This is not correct as House Rules state a Bill can only be debated after an interval of seven days following the date of tabling has elapsed.

Any debate on legislation in the House of Assembly and Senate is an essential part of our democratic process. In addition, our Constitution permits people to express their views within the law, so I respectfully ask that the General Council of the BIU not call on people to withdraw their labour.

The withdrawal of labour in this case is, in my opinion, an illegal action. In addition it will no doubt harm the economic recovery of Bermuda, which we can ill afford. Also any disruption to public services will send the wrong message to people thinking of visiting or investing in Bermuda, potentially hurting employment opportunities. I invite you to pause and not call on all people to withdraw their labour, so that we can agree a way forward.

I look forward to hearing from you to arrange a meeting to discuss.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. Michael H. Dunkley, JP, MP
Premier and Minister of National Security