Robert Hill was a member of the Australian Senate from 1981 to 2006, representing South Australia. He was educated at the University of Adelaide and the London School of Economics, where he gained a masters degree in law.


In July 2005 the Coalition parties took control of the Senate and Hill became the first Government Leader in the Senate since 1981 to command a majority in the chamber. In January 2006 he announced his resignation from the Parliament.

Hill was Australian Ambassador to the United Nations for Australia from 2006 - 2009.

In July 2009, Hill was appointed by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd as Chairman of the Australian Carbon Trust. In June 2012, he was awarded a Companion of the Order of Australia.