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ALSTTA  
Submission No: 182

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SUBMISSION : AUSTRALIA/US FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

I wish to express my disapproval to the above-mentioned Agreement.

It concerns me that whereas the US FTA was supposed to remove trade barriers between the US and Australia and lead to economic growth, identifying regulation, (like price controls on medicines and Australian content rules in film and television) by US negotiators as barriers to trade, is indeed a matter for some concern.

I believe that there is much in the government's promotion of bilateral Free trade agreements that does not accord with free and/or fair trade.

"Rules of Origin", PBS, less rights to review Foreign Investment, to regulate essential services, water services at risk, environment etc. are just a miniscule number of reasons why government should not enter into a bilateral FTA with the US.

I think the Australian Government should pursue a system that links :

- Trade and employment growth
- trade and advancement of social justice
- trade and enforcement of core labour standards
- trade and environment protection mandates
- trade and the advancement of democratic values

FINALLY : Can we stand up to the US - we are by far in a weaker bargaining position. How does the US see Australia? In economic terms, a FTA with Australia would be like the addition of another medium sized state in equivalent GDP terms. IN relation to Balance of Payments and manufactured goods - in 2001/2 for example we exported \$26.2 billion but we imported almost \$90 billion worth - a huge difference.

**TRADE AGREEMENTS ARE BINDING TREATIES.**

Signed :

*June Ayres*

June Ayres (Mrs.).