



**JEFFREY BLEICH**  
**AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Canberra, Australia

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The Honorable Ursula Stephens  
Committee Chair  
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Stephens,

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to comment on the provisions of the Defence Trade Controls Bill 2011 that is currently under review by the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation.

The United States supports the Australian government's efforts to pass the legislation needed to tighten export controls on critical defense technology and implement the Defense Trade Cooperation Treaty. When approved by Australia and implemented, this Treaty will facilitate the trade of defense equipment and technology between our two countries. This will promote the defense industry, enhance military interoperability and ultimately improve mutual security in the Asia-Pacific.

I look forward to continued dialogue with you and your colleagues on defense, foreign affairs and trade issues throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,