

Submission 4 – Cate Tauss

Committee Secretary

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties - Parliament House, Canberra

Dear Sir/Madam,

I operate a small business in Perth Western Australia and I am very concerned about the paucity of benefits and predominance of adverse impacts in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) with regard to small business in Australia and Australian prosperity in general.

The TPP appears to be less about trade than about allowing the United States being able to compel Australia (and other countries in our region) to comply with what benefits the US most. We already have free trade agreements with most of the Pacific TPP countries and the World Bank has estimated that the TPP will result in less than 1% growth in the Australian economy in 15 years.

The TPP is likely to result in a worse deal for Australia; our government will have few if no option to negotiate on this.

The ACCC and Productivity Commission's assessments of the TPP found that it will give foreign investors special rights to sue governments over domestic laws. The TPP also cements copyright monopolies for global media and IT companies which could restrict future governments from responding to consumer rights and changing technologies. Also the TPP locks in monopoly rights for pharmaceutical companies which will lead to higher prices for medicines and this will cost the PBS (which Australia is already struggling to fund) dearly for each year of delay in the availability of cheaper medicines.

Even more seriously, the TPP allows foreign corporations to bypass Australian law and sue the Australian government (in international tribunals that have less stringent checks and balances than our own with regard to independent judiciary, precedents and appeals) over changes to domestic law. How can we allow this- it is simply outrageous!

I do not believe that the TPP is the Australian interest. Please do not support the legislation that will implement the TPP.

Thanking you for taking the time to read this submission.

Cate Tauss

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FEBRUARY 18, 2016