



4/4/18

Dear Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties,

I understand that the TPP-11 has been rebadged as the CPTPP, but since there are still so many clauses that are not in Australia's interests I urge you not to endorse the legislation implementing it.

My main submission to you is that any government that would sign this agreement is guilty of betraying its own citizens. It is clear that the new agreement, like the old, is still drawn up to suit the interests of global corporations and not those of the citizens of the countries it would bind. Those citizens, moreover, will not have access to the text of the agreement until after it has been signed.

The agreement still includes the ISDS which allows corporations whose profits are threatened by them to sue governments over all sorts of provisions it makes to protect its citizens - from controls over the prices of medicines; from legislation it introduces to prevent environmental degradation; from attempts it makes to ensure the rights of its indigenous peoples; from regulations setting the minimum wage of its workforce or ensuring the conditions of workers that corporations could bring in from foreign countries.

I note that the European Court of Justice has ruled that ISDS undermines national legal autonomy and is incompatible with EU law, and that the US wants to withdraw from ISDS arrangements in the NAFTA because they are a threat to US domestic laws.

With regard to economic benefits, moreover, Australia already has free trade deals with all but two of the proposed signatories to the agreements and is not likely to benefit from changes to the agreement unless they increase access to the US market.

I look to you to address the issues of Australia's autonomy and its wellbeing as opposed to that of the American corporations which have designed this agreement in their interests.

Yours truly,

Joseph Castley