

Committee Secretary

Here below please find my submission re the proposed Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement.

I ask you to vote against all ISDS aspects of the proposed Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement. Foreign entities should not be able to bypass the judicial systems of sovereign nations. In John Howard's words, we should decide who does business in Australia and they should do it on our terms, not theirs. We know already how tobacco companies have misused similar possibilities in international law. We should not allow more of this anti-Australian activity.

The very fear of the huge legal bills that can be amassed in what amount to international kangaroo courts can deter a government from acting. This is a threat to national sovereignty. Many countries that have signed them are withdrawing from them. It would be un-Australian of you to countenance this country signing any agreement that involves ISDS or any other exemption from our own national jurisdiction for any entities doing business in Australia.

Charles Sowerwine