

Submission 6 – Ms Joanne Macdonald

To the Committee Secretary

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

Parliament House, Canberra

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Dear Secretary,

I am deeply concerned about the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP), and wish for you to pass these concerns onto the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties. I was listening to Question time on the radio the other day and was shocked to discover that the document has not been sent for independent review. Anyone who signs a significant contract always has their contracts reviewed by expert lawyers. Why should contracts signed by the Australian government be exempt from this?

I am also particularly concerned by the allowance for Foreign investors to sue governments over domestic laws (outlined in Chapter 9). If foreign investors can argue that a change in law or policy at national, state or local level “harms” their investment, how does that affect the making of policies that are benefitting the public good? Many policies are made to protect people’s health, the environment, mitigate climate change, and people’s welfare (such as protecting wages). These are all highly likely to affect investments. Why should we be subject to lawsuits for bringing in laws that protect the public good? Moreover, how much of taxpayers money will be wasted in defending these lawsuits?

*** I strongly urge you to please have this document reviewed by independent experts prior to signing. A 30 page document with 1000s of pages with far-reach ramifications must be studied carefully by experts in their fields, subjected to extensive debate, with full consideration of the effects the treaty will have on Australian people and their welfare.**

Yours sincerely

Joanne Macdonald

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