



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

Canberra, Australia

September 6, 2012

Senator Ursula Stephens  
Chair  
Senate Foreign Affairs,  
Defence and Trade Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Senator Stephens,

I would like to take this opportunity to make a written submission to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee regarding the ongoing inquiry into the Defence Trade Controls Bill 2011. In particular I wanted to express U.S. support for Australia's efforts to strengthen its defense export controls, and to express our hope that the bill be considered in Parliament as soon as feasible. Our Congress ratified the Treaty in 2010, and the sister treaty with the UK (ratified on the same day) has been in effect since April 13, 2012.

Regarding the current discussion between the Department of Defence and the university sector on establishing new controls on technology transfers, it is important that Australia's export control regime be on par with how many countries-- to include the United States, Japan, Russia and EU member states-- implement controls on the transfer of sensitive military and dual-use technology. The United States, the countries mentioned above, and many other nations have regimes comparable to, if not more stringent than, the controls on the transfer of controlled technology within the university environment recommended by the Department of Defence. Our years of experience demonstrate that these kinds of controls do not stifle fundamental and basic research. In fact, U.S. research universities are among the best in the world and routinely conduct cutting-edge research using controlled technology. In our view, governments must step in to regulate the transfer of sensitive technology, whether within universities or between universities and outside entities, to prevent unauthorized access to sensitive technical know-how that could affect national security. I hope that your committee will recommend a strong export control regime capable of accomplishing that goal.

In addition, the ongoing U.S. export control reform should not be a reason to delay the passage of the Bill. The United States, like many countries, is constantly revising its export controls in order to deal with the realities of a changing world. Our changes will not be done by the end of 2012, and reforms will be ongoing.

All our reform efforts take into account U.S. export control commitments and our binding international agreements, including our treaty with Australia. There is no change that the United States will be making in our export control reforms that will affect the ability of the Treaty to be used in the manner intended.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on export controls.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Bleich