

Wednesday 11th February, 2015

To: The Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Department of Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra, ACY, 2600

To The Committee Secretariat,

I am writing in regards to the very frightening Trans-Pacific Partnership that is being negotiated on my behalf. I would like to register my total and complete fear of such an arrangement. Perhaps this fear is at least in part due to ignorance. However, that is not by choice. I would love to know more, to understand the depth and breadth of the arrangements being made with the other countries involved, and the corporate giants behind it. The lack of transparency on the issue is startling - and if it is to be negotiated in the name of all Australians, shouldn't we all have access to clear and reasonable explanations of the said negotiations? Unless of course the TPP is NOT in all of our best interest, unless it is in fact something that most people would be against - then this apparent need for secrecy is even more concerning. The bits and pieces leaked regarding the effects on the power our government will have in the face of multi-nationals (or lack there of) being able to sue our government (therefore all Australians) is truly outrageous. This is not in any regular people's best interest, only for the few wealthy sitting out of reproach, off shore, seemingly taking advantage of this small minded governments need to win friends in high places.

I recall as a grade six student coming up to Canberra and spending a great deal of time sitting watching the goings on in parliament and being amazed at the discussions, the debates, the decision making process. Where is this in regards to the TPP? Healthy, democratic, robust exchanges of opinions on the topic? I am by no means a scholar or an expert on trade, I am not an expert on any figures or data to substantiate my position. I am an Australian, I am a mother, and I am deeply concerned about what poor choices my children will inherit. What contractual agreements will this government bind our youth to in years to come? What will the up and coming politicians of our nation be able to decide in the future? Or is this Liberal Government taking the gift of democracy away from the future generations? The health and well being of the people, let alone the environment, is sitting way down on the priority list with this Trade Agreement. There is far too much greed and money grabbing going on here and as long as immediate wealth is the only parameter by which our government rates this nations success, it is failing the majority of the people, again.

My daughter just began school, at which of a Monday morning the Australian

National Anthem is sung. We have been discussing its meaning, and I am sadly having to point out how much the anthem reflects notions of times gone by and has no relevance to our current political situation or Mr Abbotts version of national interests. Our nation is up for sale, our wealth is only for a few, our home will be girt by trade agreements, our natures gifts are disappearing fast, and this page in the history books will be a sad and sorry one, when a young and wonderful nation got sold down the river to off shore investors.

Please take a moment, no - take all the time in the world, to reconsider, if not for me, then for my children, and their children that might follow.

Regards,
Jacinta Carolan