

Committee Secretary
Joint Study Committee on Treaties
Canberra

Dear people,

This is a submission on the proposed "TPP-11" and any alternative agreements that may come under discussion if this second attempt at a "TransPacificPartnership" fails, including discussions with Peru or other potential partners.

Any international agreements must meet not only economic, but also social and political goals, and so far these proposed "Free Trade" agreements have failed in some very important areas. Governments need to have and maintain their control over regulations relating to Capital flows and foreign investments in their countries, which are clearly at risk under these present proposals, inspite of what DFAT may suggest. In additional, national environmental laws and labour protections and workplace health and safety rules must be under the control of the national governments representing their people.

The dispute resolution mechanisms (ISDS) of these recently proposed agreements are a serious threat to the sovereignty of member states, as it allows corporate interests to sue national governments in unelected offshore tribunals, without appeal to the domestic justice systems of the countries involved.

These agreements, started by the failed NAFTA agreement in north America, could more realistically be called " Free Investor Agreements", as their main function appears to be protecting the rights of Capital and corporations to move their funds anywhere in the world without any restrictions. As these earlier agreements never included any provisions about labour laws or environmental standards, this has resulted in manufacturing and capital to go to the countries with the lowest wages, poorest environmental enforcement, and maximum profit for the foreign investors.

We strongly urge you NOT to accept the ISDS provisions of these proposed agreements, and to see to it that Labour laws and Environmental standards are improved for all signatories in any Treaty ratified by the Australian government.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Peter

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