

AUSFTA
Submission No:136.....

Sidley, Kristine (REPS)

From: suze [suze@alphalink.com.au]
Sent: Saturday, 17 April 2004 6:09 PM
To: Committee, Treaties (REPS)
Subject: Free Trade Agreement: free for whom?

RECEIVED
19 APR 2004
BY:

Please find below my objection to the free trade agreement.

I am also attaching it as a word file in case it is easier to print.

Thanks.

Sender: Susan Houghton
13 Victoria Street, Fitzroy 3065

16/4/04

To the Senate Select committee on the FTA between Australia and USA.

I am extremely concerned at the prospect of living in a country which is beholden to the United States of America in any respect.

My particular concerns to a 'free trade' agreement relate to the irreversible nature of the current agreement, the implications for cultural content in all forms both current and future, and the international implications for agriculture and food supply.

As both a media content producer and a farmer I have grave concerns about any deals with the USA which tie Australia irreversibly to what it claims is 'free trade'.

Whilst I find the amount of USA media content currently projected onto Australian screens abhorrent and inappropriate, this promises to increase exponentially if the proposed FTA goes ahead. I believe this agreement works in the US's favour as evidenced by many overseas cases.

Furthermore, as both a consumer and producer of quality farm produce, I am deeply concerned at the amount of subsidised USA food that may flood the Australian market. My particular concern is the possible laws and lack of regulation which would come out of this agreement, such as a lack of adequate labeling of USA farm produce, and the increase of GM foods infiltrating our supermarkets without any knowledge on the part of the consumer.

This clearly will affect our sovereignty, for example with the possibility of state moratoriums being overridden.

The implications of this dangerous and under-scrutinised GM 'food' should not be allowed into Australia. To my knowledge there are no safeguards within the current agreement which would allow Australia to regulate the labeling of such foods, and to enter into an agreement which is irreversibly to make guinea-pigs of Australian citizens and environment.

In the end, this agreement would put a huge burden on the Australian government to subsidise farming to the extent that the US government does, just to put our produce on an equal footing. It will also increase health-care costs when dangerous produce begins to affect the long-term health of our citizens.

I am completely opposed to the FTA and would consider leaving Australia if it goes ahead.

Yours Sincerely,

Susan Houghton