

ASFTA  
Submission No: .....88.....

4 CHANTILLY STREET,  
CHAPEL HILL

Q 4069

Posted 13 April 2004

RECEIVED  
15 APR 2004

Secretary,

Joint Standing Committee on Trade

Parliament House

Canberra

BY:.....

Dear Sir / madam,

I have enclosed  
a submission to your Committee's Review  
of the Australia United States Free Trade  
Agreement and I have posted my  
submission on the Deadline Date

Yours faithfully

Dennis Bright

Submission from Denis John Bright of  
4 Cantilly Street Chapel Hill Q 4069  
to the Joint Standing Committee on  
Treaties in its review of the Australia  
United States Free Trade Agreement

That the short time period between the  
release of the text of the AUSFTA Treaty  
on 4 March 2004 has been insufficient  
to promote public debate on:

the likely economic consequences of  
the Treaty from official and  
alternative economic models

the range of opinions available  
from DFAT, DNA, the Productivity  
Commission and other credible forums  
on the economic implications of  
the Treaty have not been used  
to generate public debate on the  
implications of AUSFTA

That no detailed schedules have  
been presented on enabling legislation  
required to validate the Treaty

That the full legal implications  
of the Treaty and the validity of  
proposed enabling legislation  
are unknown

That the implications of the Treaty on the future delivery of public and social policies at all levels of government are uncertain

That the political values of neoliberalism infused into the Treaty may be incompatible with Australia's legal traditions and commitment to responsible government as the Treaty seeks to restrict the legislative options of the Australian Parliament particularly on the need for commercial accountability on the delivery of all public services

That the use of election deadlines in the United States and Australia to hasten the ratification of the Treaty is to be thoroughly condemned

That the extent of farm subsidies in the USA on the export prospects of Australian rural products has not been thoroughly investigated

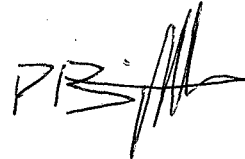
That the issue of GE foods in the opening up of trade in rural products needs to be investigated

③

although the text of AUSFTA has been finalized and a signing ceremony arranged for May 2004 in Washington, it is still possible to recommend that all enabling legislation in Australia is deferred until after the 2004 Federal Election as any commitment to the full ratification of the Treaty by December 2004 is arbitrary and undemocratic because of the broad scope of this Treaty and its impact on almost every aspect of Australian life.

Signed Denis Bright

Witnessed



PAUL MATTHEW BRIGHT

at Newcastle on 12  
April 2004