

**Sidley, Kristine (REPS)**

**From:** Cleo Lynch [lynchc@bigpond.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 April 2004 8:35 PM  
**To:** Committee, Treaties (REPS)  
**Subject:** Re: Australia - US Bilateral trade agreement

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16 APR 2004

BY:.....

Sorry, I keep forgetting.  
Cleo Lynch, 8/15 Johnston Street Balmain NSW 2041

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Committee, Treaties (REPS)  
**To:** Cleo Lynch  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2004 5:18 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Australia - US Bilateral trade agreement

Thank you for your interest in the committee's inquiry into the USA-Australia Free trade Agreement. In order for your comments to be considered by the Committee as a submission there is a requirement for a postal address. This information is usually published along with your submission unless you request otherwise.

Fran Wilson  
Office Administrator  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Cleo Lynch [mailto:lynchc@bigpond.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, 9 April 2004 7:13 PM  
**To:** Committee, Treaties (REPS)  
**Subject:** Australia - US Bilateral trade agreement

The Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
R1-109, Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

### **Proposed Australia – US Free Trade Agreement**

I have previously been in contact with The Hon. Mark Vaile expressing my strong concerns about this agreement, prior to the finalization of this document. I am trying again, although with a jaundiced understanding of how well mere voters like myself are listened to. Again I reiterate that this agreement certainly does not appear to be in Australia's interests.

#### Medicines and Drugs

It is specious to claim that the PBS will not be affected. Maybe it won't be affected now, but in the long term it weakens price controls on medicines by allowing drug companies to seek reviews of decisions by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee. It also sets up a new joint policy committee which gives the **US government** a voice in Australian medicines policy, based on **US policy** and not on the Australian policy of access to medicines for all.

#### Tariff on auto components

This action will immediately threaten the jobs of tens of thousands of Australian workers, particularly in Adelaide and in regional Victoria. It also places at risk over 100,000 manufacturing jobs, as companies comply with the new tariff outlook.

#### Media content

Australian content in new forms of media is under real threat, and allows the **US** government to challenge these rules as a barrier to trade.

#### Copyright law

Adopting **US** copyright law will lead to higher costs for libraries, schools and universities. Libraries have for decades been under funded, and now this agreement will increase the costs.

#### State and Local government regulation

"Binds"/freezes many areas of state and local government regulation at existing levels and limits the ability of governments to make new laws and policies on **essential services like water**.

#### Foreign Investment Review Board

Limits the powers of this board to review investment in the national interest, so that **90% of US investment** will not be reviewed.