

Submission No:16.....

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BY:.....

The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
PR1-109, Parliament House
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

From earliest times in the process of negotiations with the United States of America for a Trade Agreement and subsequently titled The Australia U.S. Free Trade Agreement (U.S.F.T.A) the degree of secrecy and obfuscation by the Australian government has been remarkable. Remarkable in that the lives and livelihoods of Australian workers and farmers could be so capriciously bartered with out their consultation nor their consent.

As some knowledge and light is finally being brought to this USFTA it is obvious that from the broadest Australian interest Australian citizens and industries in almost all cases will either be diminished or demolished.

I say "almost all" because even from the worst calamities almost invariable someone will profit.

The point I want to convey to this Committee is I want to register my strongest objection to the Australian Government being a legislative and briefly

1. I itemise some, though not all, of my concerns.
 1. As a WW2 War veteran I am not convinced that changes to the P.B.S. will not degrade an already restrictive scheme. For now War Veterans pensioners the potential to incrementally raise medicinal costs is becoming clear.
 2. The changes to long established legal processes where the merits and established principles are the goals for society. USFTA if ratified will introduce what I can best describe as a type of "Private Law", something outside the sovereignty of our own legal system and that is wrong and dangerous.
 3. In the uncertainties of investment and services it is vital the people of Australia have every confidence in how, where and why investment is regulated in their country. After all whoever the pharology is used it is the people who in very large part suffer or are impacted up by investment. Services equally are vital for the welfare and therefore the wellbeing of our people and only our elected governments should/must retain the role completely.
 4. Quarantine laws, genetically modified crops, suicide methods and duping of consumers are not conducive either to public health or economic sustainability on a world market. Australia so far is fortunate in regard to "clean produce". To dump that substance for dubious shadow is ludicrous.

Content rules in USFTA are a source of much concern. Doubts of the role of our public broadcasters, the existing contents quotas with capping regimes. These all have the capacity to severely change our national identity, all of which causes me to wonder how far the government is prepared to go. Is it even willing to trade our country away for what?

There will not be economic benefits to the vast citizens of Australia. Even the example of exclusion of sugar & the introduction of jamming produce for up to 18 years are just glimmers of the real and painful picture in store if this USFTA were to go ahead.

We already trade with the U.S. and we must always keep our trading "Fair" regardless with whom.

I urge the Committee to refuse this Agreement for its failure to respond in Australia's best interests.

Yours faithfully
Ray Cox