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Wednesday 14 April 2004

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

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BY:.....

**Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties Inquiry
into the Proposed Australia-USA Free Trade Agreement**

We believe the proposed US-Australia Free Trade Agreement is not in Australia's interests because of its impact on the following:

- price controls on medicines
- jobs on manufacturing
- Australian medicines' policy
- media
- libraries, schools and universities
- laws and policies on essential services like water
- powers of the Foreign Investment Review Board
- quarantine and regulation of food labelling, including GE food labelling,
- government purchasing policies, and that
- the USA can challenge many Australian laws and regulations.

The small economic benefits claimed by the government to flow from a Free Trade Agreement with the USA assumed full trade liberalisation in agriculture. However, you must recognise that with sugar excluded, the potential gains for dairy quite illusory, and beef products having to wait 18 years for full access, there is no economic benefit, only economic and social pain for Australia in the proposed Agreement.

The response to the above by supporters of the Agreement "that no matter how bad the agreement is, it is good for us because it gives access to the world's leading economy" does not withstand scrutiny.

Australia is already highly integrated with the US economy in goods, services and finance, and in education. This integration produces a massive trade deficit with the US. Except for a few products and services of special significance, there is already virtual free trade and investment between the two economies. The supporters of greater integration are really calling for a widespread takeover of medium size

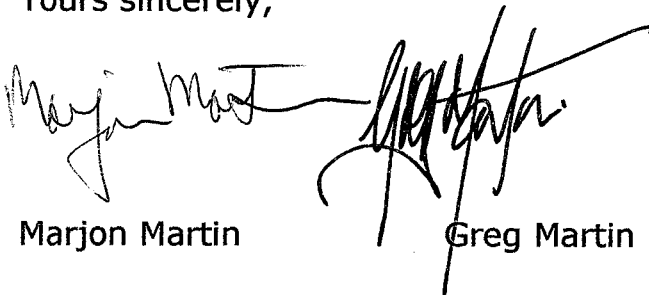
Australian enterprises by US corporations, and this is facilitated by the new \$800 million threshold for Foreign Investment Review Board scrutiny of US investments under the proposed Agreement.

This development will lead to significant closure of productive enterprises in Australia, and a greater outflow of revenues in dividends, royalties and interest, thus weakening our society in the medium to long term.

I urge your committee to find that this proposed treaty is not in Australia's interests and that it should be rejected.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Marjon Martin' and the signature on the right is 'Greg Martin'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marjon Martin

Greg Martin