

From: Pauline Stirzaker [<mailto:pstirzaker@xlprint.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, 7 April 2004 12:52 PM
To: Committee, Treaties (REPS)
Subject: Free Trade Agreement

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose the US Free Trade Agreement and can see very little benefit being derived from it. I feel that if signed the Australian public will no longer be able to exercise their basic democratic right to protest against decisions made on behalf of Trade. The FTA is only interested getting the most out of trade and eliminates logical reasoning and down to earth commonsense. I feel that the USFTA will undermine basic health systems and remove compassion for welfare services particularly, aged care, child care and the distribution of medicine.

I feel that the USFTA will eventually eliminate the need for the PBS by allowing the American government to have a say in our Medicine policies. I feel many people will be affected by higher costs of medicines. If they cant afford them, who will they get well?

I believe the USFTA will rob Australia of its National Identity. Children today are already mimicking American Television (just look at what they wear and how they "like" speak).

More disturbing is the fact that the US government can challenge our food labelling laws. How can we make informed decisions about what we can eat if we dont know what's in the food. This goes especially for Genetically Engineered foods. We will no longer be able to make the basic decision about what we want and don't want to eat.

I believe that the USFTA threatens the quality of your environment through the deregulation of quarantine laws.

Nothing is safe any more. Australia will loose control over it's resources and the quality of care that is provided for all.

I strongly believe we should not accept any part of the USFTA at all. None of it is really in Australia's National interest. More like America's National interest and at Australia's expense.

I don't want to be a "low hanging fruit"! I think it is more credible to be a free independent country that can stand on it's own two feet.

Thank you for the time,

Pauline Stirzaker