

Sidley, Kristine (REPS)

From: ruth williams [ruth@rhinophile.com]
Sent: Friday, 16 April 2004 4:09 PM
To: Committee, Treaties (REPS)
Subject: FTA Agreement

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BY:.....

TO THE 'JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES'...

I am writing to make sure my voice is included amongst those of the population that believe that it is imperative that the regulation of new media is not compromised in the current round of trade talks with America.

As a writer I am concerned on a professional level. I graduated from the screenwriting course at RMIT. Majoring in digital media, it was not long before I realised that the future of screen culture would be digitally captured and delivered around the world via the Internet and satellite. As a media teacher I am concerned for those students who wish to express themselves by telling screen-based stories.

I am also the mother of two teenage boys; one who plans to design video games, the other who wants to make documentaries that capture the heart of what it is to live in Australia. Because they have so much faith that these are career choices that will be available for them, I feel a great responsibility to make sure that the future they foresee will still exist.

It is not fair to carry out these negotiations in such a way that the public are not aware of what impact such decisions will have on the amount of control we have over the cultural representation of ourselves in the future. This is not only about jobs in the industry. It is most certainly about standing up for what is right for our country.

Australia has been a fine and loyal ally to America in recent times. This gives us a strong base from which to argue our case. Trading away our right to support Australian content is a mistake that must be appreciated now, at a time when we still have the opportunity to stop such an outcome from eventuating.

Yours faithfully,
Ruth Williams

I implore you to be strong on this matter and hold out for our right to regulate new media. I appreciate that you are doing your best to take all matters into consideration, however I can't see why this issue has become negotiable.