

AUSFTA
Submission No: 113

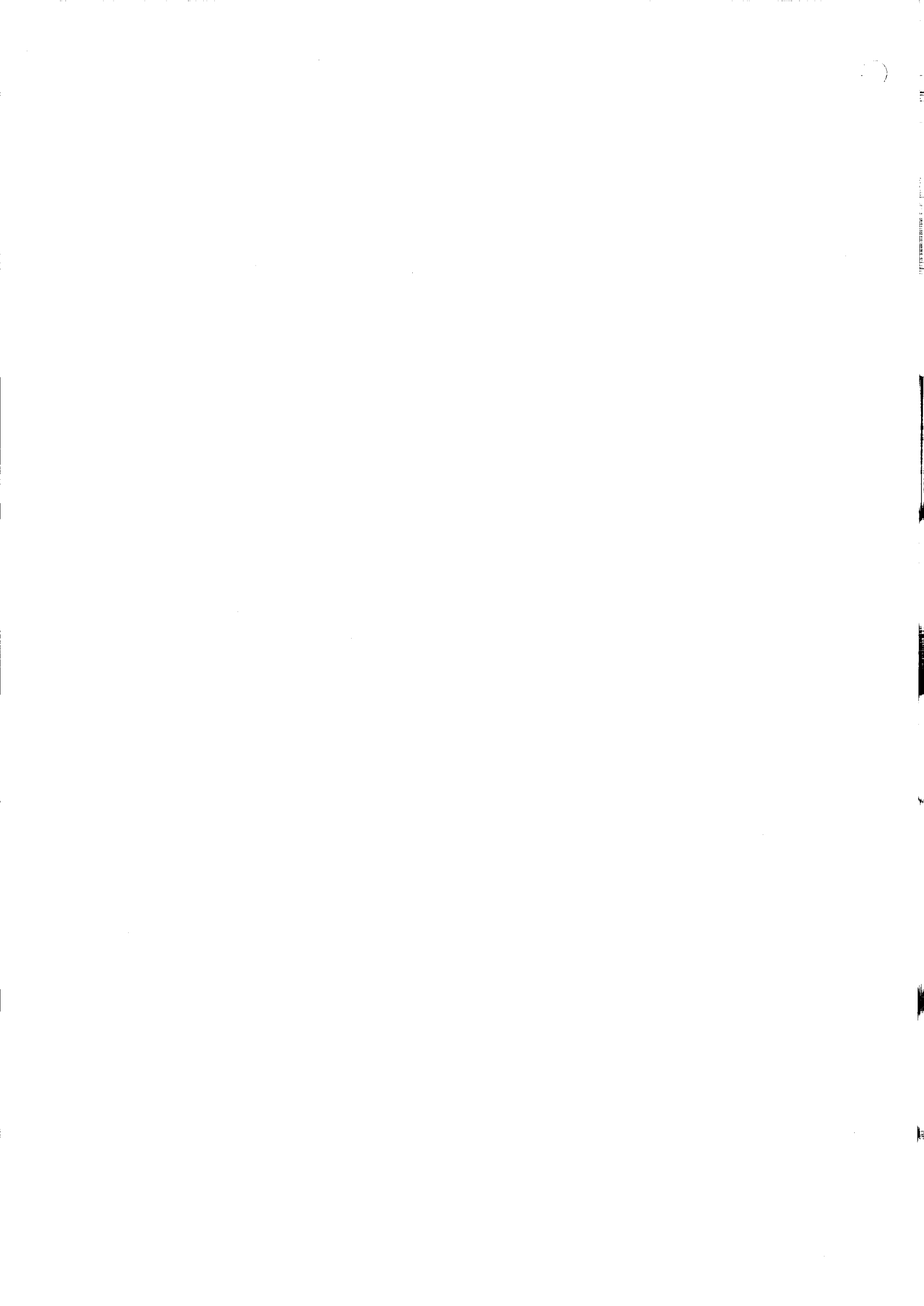
From: Liam Cranley [E51049@ems.rmit.edu.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 April 2004 3:19 PM
To: Committee, Treaties (REPS)
Subject: RE: Submission re USFTA

Hello Fran,
Thanks for the alert, my postal address is as below.
Regards
Liam

RECEIVED
15 APR 2004

BY:

Liam Cranley
18 Waterdale Rd
Ivanhoe 3079



Wilson, Frances (REPS)

From: Committee, Treaties (REPS)
Sent: Wednesday, 14 April 2004 3:14 PM
To: 'Liam Cranley'
Subject: RE: Submission re USFTA

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: Liam Cranley [mailto:E51049@ems.rmit.edu.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 April 2004 2:45 PM
To: Committee, Treaties (REPS)
Subject: Submission re USFTA

Dear Secretary & members of the JSCT,

The flaws in the proposed free trade agreement with the USA (USFTA) are so severe that your allowing its enactment would amount to little short of treason. I know that there have been submissions covering in great detail each of the points I will raise (and more), and I list some only to demonstrate that the community is not completely ignorant of the pig-in-a-poke being proffered.

If forced to rank the flaws in the USFTA, the worst aspects would be as follows: Restrictions on right to regulate essential services * this goes to the heart of national sovereignty. No agreement allowing such an impediment to government can or should be allowed without a national referendum. No parliamentary committee can legitimately decide this on behalf of all Australians.

Quarantine relaxation * the negative outcomes are potentially unlimited, and as such relaxing the current patchy regime contravenes the precautionary principle that should be the guiding principal of legislative decision making.

Marginal benefits for agriculture * most sectors will receive no immediate benefit, limited future benefits, and most have the potential for success (greater Australian exports to the USA) to trigger renewed barriers.

Copyright extension * universities already struggle to maintain access to sufficient knowledge resources, what provision has been made for this increased cost to be provided for by greater Commonwealth funding? Or is trade-now more important than education-now-&-in-the-future?

Backdoor to investor-State complaints * this foul concept, defeated in the MIA, and in the WTO Cancun round, is given new life by the vague wording of Article 11.16.1 of the USFTA. Is Australia to join the unlucky lab rats in NAFTA, being bled dry by the 'supposes' of lawyers?

These are but the beginnings of the flaws in the USFTA. The free trade ideology has failed repeatedly and conspicuously in many economies around the world, as measured by the real wealth of citizens. It succeeds in enriching corporate stockholders and directors, but the greater rich-poor gap created leads only to social decay, instability, and reduced quality of life for even the well-insulated rich.

I simultaneously demand and beg of you to consider the interests of all Australians, and not just some possible benefit to some businesses. If ever you entered political life to be of some service to your community, block this agreement and you may consider yourselves at least partly successful.

Respectfully Yours,

Liam Cranley
Ivanhoe, Melbourne.