

SUBMISSION TO SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE USFTA

from ANN WATERFORD

It is my will that the Senate Select Committee on the USFTA object on my behalf to the Federal Government and I submit the following reasons:-

- The USA does not honour signed agreements. The Lamb Trade Agreement is a case in point. Even when the umpire ruled against the USA, the US Trade Authority thwarted the decision brought down in favour of Australia. The US Authority concerned with this matter did not treat Australian Exporters to the US in a fair manner.
- USA does not care much about social equity policies and the deprived in the Australian community would not fare very well in a USA inspired environment.
- Australia's hard worked for quarantine system and regulations would certainly be modified to suit the US and this would put all of our Primary Production at risk.
- Generically Engineered food labelling laws will be dispensed with and crop production and regulation will give the US a formal role in policy decisions made in Australia.
- Local Producers of Film and TV would not be able to insist on or increase local content and the present rules are a vital pillar of the Australian cultural identity. American humour and interpretation are quite different from the Australian way and the writer knows of a situation where an Australian University debating team had to re-word its debating language when debating in the US. We need independence of thought not brain washing US style.
- In Australia the Government has investment restrictions in media, banking, Airlines and telecommunications. If a Free Trade Agreement were entered into, these companies would be takeover targets for US companies. The rights and rules of the Foreign Investment Review Board would be drastically reduced, resulting in huge American takeovers. Under the USFTA there would be less rights for federal, state and local governments to regulate essential services.
- Many US drug Companies manufacture drugs used by the Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. These Companies are not happy with the Australian Government's stance on the price structure of these drugs used under the PBS and would want a similar pricing structure to the USA. Although the scheme is protected at present the USFTA dispute process will eventually undermine this socially effective PBS.
- The United States of America Government is now trying to establish links between trade and security. Since World War II Australia and the US have kept these issues apart and this action has been the cornerstone of each country's Foreign Policy.
- In Robert Zoellick's correspondence to Congress, in part he lists trade issues and he refers to "strengthening the foundations of our security alliance" and "promotion of common values so we can work together more effectively in third world countries". My observations of the US interaction with third world countries are self-interest and exploitative.

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- There will be job losses in the few remaining industries attracting tariffs, when they are deleted. Local purchasing of products needed by foreign contractors operating in Australia will not be permitted under the USFTA. Government procurement is another area of concern.
- Australia needs to repair its image in Asia and particularly in third world Asian countries and this will not be achieved in unison with the USA.
- **FAIR TRADE** is a more appropriate goal to aim for rather than Free Trade.

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