

Secretary
Senate Select Committee on the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA)

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is a submission to the Select Committee's inquiry into AUSFTA.

I am not opposed to a traditional bilateral agreement on trade in goods between the US and Australia. I am however opposed to the proposed AUSFTA. The features I find very objectionable are:

- the relaxation on foreign investment controls for US companies wishing to invest in Australia;
- the expropriation clause in the foreign investment chapter;
- opening up of government-provided services in areas such as public transport, health services and water supply for competition with US companies; and
- the provision for US companies to appeal decisions to not include their products in the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

For the sake of our sovereignty, these features should be removed from the AUSFTA. The economic benefits (if they ever materialise) would not outweigh the political loss.

Yours sincerely,

Derek Walter (Dr)