

To the

Senate Select Committee on Free Trade Agreement between Australia
and the United States of America



I present this submission to you as an individual, a person who has been a farmer in the Western District of Victoria all of his life, born and bred in the Hamilton district, My name Keith Luhrs and address is 8 Lord St Hamilton 3300. Now retired I have time to read and observe the happenings in this fair land of ours.

The federal government want free trade with U.S.A. why free trade, is the government going to subsidize the Australian farmer to the same extent that the American government subsidize the American farmer so that our farmers can compete?

When you have already got subsidized products being let into the country causing considerable hardships to so many, why it does not make sense.

To name a few who are suffering: Pig Farmers going out backwards, Fruit growers having a battle all the way, the Dairy farmer is in a hit and miss situation and the list goes on, we dont want to be a dumping ground for overseas products.

I have friends and neighbours who have discussed this free trade with me and all are of the same opinion a tariff barrier of some form or other must remain in place. There are many worried people in this area who can see social security having to come to the rescue if this happens, and this we do not want.

Australia can be more than self sufficient in all products and given a little government understanding and help would excel at all with clean green products.

I realize that if you export you must import, we export to many raw materials: wool, iron ore, wood chips etc these should all be value added in this country, we are good at shearing sheep, digging holes and falling trees and there it stops, we must carry on and finish the job.

The federal government must put Australia first at all times, get our own backyard cleaned up: roads, bridges, railways, water supplies, hospitals, schools etc and then worry about others, they must encourage local investment before foreign, we must have protection from imports that effect products that are Australian grown and made and keep Australia for Australians.

So summing up it is my opinion and that of most others in this area that free trade with America is definitely not wanted.

Yours Sincerely

Keith. D. Luhrs.