

Senator Select Committee on the USFTA

12 4 04.

Dear Senators,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed USFTA.

I believe the proposed USFTA Agreement benefits the USA at the expense of Australia. This Agreement will only increase the global power of the USA, a country which is already causing the world massive global problems.

Chapter 11, "the investment chapter" will mean that our government will have to compensate US companies in the event ~~that~~ our environmental and health laws "significantly interfere" with their investments. This is a grave threat to our sovereignty.

I have great concerns about the chapter liberalising trade in services. This commits Australia to ensuring its environmental and health laws do not act as a barrier to trade in services. The chapter may lead to the privatisation of our National Parks and make it more difficult for Australia to regulate water use.

99% of US manufactured goods will be able to enter Australia, including US cars with fuel consumption even worse than Australian cars. As 38% of household greenhouse gases are generated by transport, that will only add to climate change, the world's greatest threat.

The environment chapter is incredibly weak as it only benefits minority interests. It will not benefit the majority, namely the as yet unborn future generations of people and all other non-voting species humanity depends on for its survival.

The FTA will increase the trend away from the use of global multilateral agreements in trade and the environment.

I believe the USFTA will limit democracy, result in higher costs for our medicine, will result in less rights to regulate our essential services.

The US will have greater influence on our quarantine and food labelling laws. I have grave concerns that far greater access will be given to GE foods. Australia's media will be even more badly affected by the American media influence. The US ethos appears to be based only on ever greater levels of growth and consumption which is a recipe for total disaster for future generations.

Public broadcasting could be affected, if so, heaven help Australia.

The Agreement will result in many job losses in Australia.

All the best in the future you choose for your families.

Yours sincerely,

Harry Johnson
Harry Johnson.

