

o the Senate Inquiry into the Australia -US Free Trade Agreement -

As a citizen of Australia, I urge you to consider the effects of this agreement with utmost care.

What concerns me most is its effect on Australia's film and television industry, and the effect on the Australian population of even more US screen culture.

If our vision of Australia in the 21st century is that of a free and democratic, multicultural state, then we should support and expand our own media industries to give Australians the opportunity to voice, watch and listen to Australian film and television, and to make it of such quality that the rest of the world clamours to watch it too.

If we sign an agreement with the US which stifles our media industries we sign away our intellectual and cultural independence and become merely an antipodean annex to US culture and values.

It is up to you to safeguard our cultural identity by rejecting any attempt by foreign states to usurp our freedom of expression, which this agreement, in effect, entails.

Please consider this when delivering your report to the Senate.

Yours earnestly,

Andrea Heinrichs