

I oppose the FTA with the U.S. as it stands, as Australia will lose out in many ways. I draw your attention to this scenario:

* Oil Company Vs Costa Rica under Central American Free Trade Agreement (Mar 26) - Harken Energy, a Texas-based oil company with close ties to U.S. President George W. Bush, had previously obtained rights to search for crude in Costa Rica. Before failing an environmental impact review in February 2002, it had planned to drill offshore. Now Harken is demanding that the Costa Rican government pay upwards of \$12 million in reparations for its aborted exploits. International observers say the case is shaping up as the latest cautionary tale of how "free trade" agreements give corporations the power to trump local environmental laws.

Please record my opposition to the FTA at your upcoming meeting.

Regards,

Emma Jay