

23 April, 2004

The Senate Select Committee on the  
United States Free Trade Agreement  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

I wish to lodge a formal protest against our government signing the United States Free Trade Agreement (USFTA). **I believe that this is an issue of such importance that it is not the right of any particular government to decide but must be decided by a national referendum.**

Signing such an agreement would amount to selling the Australian public (and all future generations of Australians) down the proverbial river, if there were to be any rivers left in our future at all!

The USFTA threatens our rights to regulate essential services by having to justify how “essential” they are to rapacious corporations who do not have the best interest of the Australian people at heart. One would hope that our **elected government** would have our interests at heart but even contemplating the signing of this agreement indicates that our government is more interested in pleasing the US government and greedy corporations who are pushing for this “free” trade agreement.

This agreement poses risks to our environment, our quarantine regulations, public health, education and our very culture. At the same time any economic benefits for our farmers or industries are dubious. It seems to me that all the benefits are going to the United States while we are just opening up our society, economy and environment for the pillaging!

**DO NOT BETRAY THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT!**

I am merely a concerned citizen of a so-called democracy who believes that we must protect and preserve our land, our systems of public education and public health and our quarantine conditions which have protected us from the onslaught of many contagious and virulent diseases. Our wonderful Australian culture is already at risk of being subsumed by American cultural domination do not sell us out altogether.

Yours faithfully

Fiona Harris