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USFTA

SUBMISSION ON THE USFTA

My objections to the USFTA lie in its clear threat to our democracy, and in the gross inequality in power of the prospective partners.

This inequality is evident even in the sort of requests that appear in the document: do you think that we would presume to ask that we be included as Australian citizens, to take an active role in determining important US laws, as she has requested to do with ours? She has asked

• that she be allowed to sit on committees determining our quarantine laws and those regarding GM,

- and has laid down in Annexes 1 and 2 what we may and may not do with regard to a whole raft of our laws spreading over many areas of Australian life.

These things express clearly her perception of herself as the dominant partner ----- a reality ----- and also give us a clear view of what she can do ----- and clearly intends to do ---- with that power if it pleases her.

The Australian APEC Study Centre, and ACTH Consultants, from whom John Howard commissioned economic studies on the USFTA, predicted losses, while the CIE study predicted gains for the Australian Economy of only 0.3% after 10 years, and that was assuming free trade in Agriculture! What, then can we realistically believe we stand to gain in signing this questionable deal, while what we stand to lose is only too evident: we lose our freedom to make our own laws and run our own country as a democracy. Do we really want to be, effectively, the ~~51~~ State of the US?

Even the infamous Investor- State regulations, though apparently discarded, now appear, but through a loop hole that could become a noose unless we are wary.

I submit that all these requests, almost without exception, reveal a desire to control us while paying lip-service to our position as an independent democracy, and that if we want to retain our independence and our freedom, our only option is to reject this dubious Agreement outright.

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