

To the Senate Select Committee of USFTA

I wish to submit my objections to the ratification signing of the FTA between Australia and the United States.

There appears to be very little of value to many of the public, with the possibility of higher pharmaceutical costs that are likely to ensue. A very poor return from what is supposed to be a world's best health system.

The United States government has conceded very little in the area of agriculture: an 18 year implementation period for beef prices is contemptuously inadequate, while the sugar industry does not even have this meagre reward to look forward to. However, the Australian taxpayer will be obliged to foot the bill for the sugar industry's strident demands for compensation; the reality is Australian taxpayers are paying for the United States' parsimonious attitude to a supposedly equal partnership between 'friends'.

Business interests find some rewards in this deal, but then business rewards will not repay the costs to those with ill-health or those in the agricultural industry.

All this and cultural colonisation in an even easier mode, does not bode well for Australian well-being. This is a one sided, inadequate and derisory deal and Australia would do better looking to the Asia Pacific region for trade deals, in the long run.

I do not support the ratification of the FTA and urge that there be a further investigation into a more equitable deal, if one has to be done at all.

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