

Dear Senators,

I write to urge your committee to recommend that the Senate vote against approving the proposed US Free Trade Agreement.

The proposal holds danger for Australia in the future and is heavily weighted in favour of US farmers and corporations. Access for Australian farmers to the US markets is limited and in the case of some products, delayed for years. Even then, if US farmers feel the effect on prices for their products is adverse, they are allowed to call for a renegotiation.

The power of large US corporations should not be ignored. Canada has already suffered under NAFTA by being forced to take action against its national interest or suffer heavy legal penalties. These are risks we should not take. Our Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and our film and television industries all are likely to face the risk of concerted attacks by US interests.

Please urge the Senate to vote against the proposed agreement.

Yours faithfully,

Clive Williams