

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to register my deep concern at the intellectual property aspects of the USFTA. As an Australian citizen and professional engineer I am worried that the agreement will causes changes in Australian law which remove person rights from Australians, and which will be damaging to Australian technology companies.

Software patents in the US are in a terrible state. There is little or no evidence that they motivate production of novel software, but many documented cases of them being used to enforce monopolies, extort rent on public standards and generally interfere with free markets. I do not think that the government has made any kind of credible case for introducing them into Australia.

Experience in the US in recent years has shown that the majority of software patents are held by either very large companies, or by specialist litigation firms that produce nothing but lawsuits. In neither case is it to Australia's advantage to enter the battle: no Australian firm has the size or armaments to do well in a patent battle.

I refer you to Roger Clarke's excellent paper on the issues:

<http://www.anu.edu.au/people/Roger.Clarke/II/FTA17.html>

I strongly encourage you to seek and thoroughly consider Professor Clarke's advice during your hearings.

Yours sincerely,

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Martin Pool, BE (Hons)