

Secretary
Senate Select Committee on the Free Trade Agreement
between Australia and the United States of America

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am the Director of an information technology consultancy business in Perth that exports hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of services each year. Our business relies on our ability to implement innovative software solutions for our clients. Australia's compliance with the terms of FTA Chapter 17 will seriously affect our ability to innovate and hence poses significant risks to our business and others like ours.

My concerns are well-represented by the views expressed by Prof. Roger Clarke in his paper "The Economic and Cultural Impacts of the Free Trade Agreement Provisions relating to Copyright and Patent Law" <<http://www.anu.edu.au/people/Roger.Clarke/II/FTA17.html>> and by the Linux Australia position paper "US - Australia "Free" Trade Agreement and Open Source" <<http://www.linux.org.au/papers/fta-paper.html>>.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Pudney.