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AUSTRALIAN
LABOR
PARTY
GULGONG BRANCH

28 April 2004

Secretary
Senate Select Committee on the Free Trade Agreement
between Australia and the United States of America
Suite S1.30.1
The Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: FTA@aph.gov.au

Dear committee members

On April 24 2004 the Gulgong Branch of the Australian Labor Party carried a motion that we submit a list of our concerns for inclusion in the considerations of your committee. The following points are the list of our concerns:

- ● The economic benefits of the FTAAUSA are not clear to the Australian people
- ● The FTAAUSA dispute process limits our democratic rights

- ● Costs of medicines may be increased
- ● Extensions of copyrights means higher costs to our libraries and schools
- ● Fewer rights to review foreign investment
- ● Our water services may be at risk
- ● The United States of America will have a stronger influence on quarantine measures and labeling regulations
- ● There will be a downgrading of Australian content regulations in the media

Branch members have noted a wide range of concerns discussed in the community and the list of concerns carried at our meeting is not exhaustive of the general community concerns we have encountered. We hope that committee members will at all times in your examination of the FTAAUSA keep the welfare of all Australians in mind.

Yours sincerely

Anne Williams
Secretary, Gulgong Branch ALP
(Elected 21 April 2004)