A•S•U
Australian Services Union

Victorian Authorities &
Services Branch

4 May, 2004

Senator Peter Cook
The Chair of the Australian:

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Senator,

I write to you as the Branch Secretary of the ASU Victorian Authorities & Services branch. My branch still has concerns that the USA – Australia Free Trade Agreement will;
- reduce the opportunities for ASU members in the Public Sector and other Industries covered by the Union:
- reduce regional employment opportunities;
- reduce decision making powers of local communities and local or state governments (including Public Owned government Enterprises); and
- have a negative affect upon many Australian's.

Branch members have also been made aware through the media of:
- reduced possible reinvestment in Australian jobs;
- the reduced tariffs on goods and of the one sided or negative benefit to Australia;
- that Australia did not get as good a deal as other nations that have negotiated similar agreements with the USA; and
- the possible loss of Australian culture.

My branch of the Union has great concern for the possible outcomes, non realised benefits to Australia and the manner in which the agreement was negotiated. We ask that the Senate Select Committee on the Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the United States of America, consider reviewing the USA - Australia Free Trade Agreement, and establish a process of renewed negotiations of the DRAFT Agreement that is acceptable to the broader Australian Society.

I ask the Senate Committee to reject the Agreement in its present form.

Yours truly,

Darrell Cochrane
Branch Secretary

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