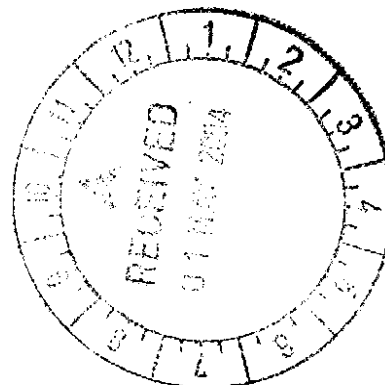


Australian Services Union

3 May 2004

Senator Peter Cook
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



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

Dear Senator Cook,

Members of the Australian Services Union (ASU) South Australian & Northern Territory Branch wish to bring to the attention of the above committee their concerns about the proposed USA – Australia Free Trade Agreement. It is the view of our members that, if implemented, the Agreement will have serious, detrimental implications for ASU members, their families and the Australian community.

Our view is the proposed Agreement will have a number of undesirable effects including reducing the number of Australian based directors in companies, reducing regional employment and reducing decision making powers of local communities and local and state governments. In addition, we support submissions made by other Unions and organisations that have rightly pointed out the Agreement as proposed will mean a reduction in investment in Australian jobs and encourage the decimation of Australia's cultural identity.

We ask the Senate Committee to reject the Agreement in its present form. Further, we ask that the Senate Select Committee fully investigate and review the proposed Agreement and establish a process of renewed negotiations for an Agreement that is beneficial to the whole Australian community and not just of benefit to some interest groups, including foreign organisations and foreign governments.

Yours faithfully


ANNE MCEWEN
BRANCH SECRETARY

South Australian & Northern Territory Branch

Branch Secretary Anne McEwen
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