

**A•S•U**4th May 2004Senator 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 North Queensland Branch Secretary of the ASU in the State of Queensland. I have been advised by the Union's National office, that there are considerable concerns held by the Union 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 the number of Australian based directors in companies, reduce regional employment, reduce decision making powers of local communities and local or state governments (including Public Owned government Enterprises), and have a negative affect upon many Australians .

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

The North Queensland 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, fully investigate and review the USA-Australia FTA, and establish a process of renewed negotiations of the DRAFT Agreement that is acceptable to the broad Australian Society, and recommence Negotiations in a manner that is before the fact rather than after the fact.

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

Yours Faithfully

Margie Dale
Branch Secretary
ASU NQ C&A Branch**Australian
Services
Union****Federated Clerks
Union****North Queensland
Clerical and
Administrative
Branch**485 Flinders St
Townsville
QLD 4810Postal Address:
PO Box 135
Townsville
Qld 4810

Phone: 07 4771 2873

Fax: 07 4721 1582

Email:

asunqca@bigpond.com**Branch Secretary
Margie Dale**