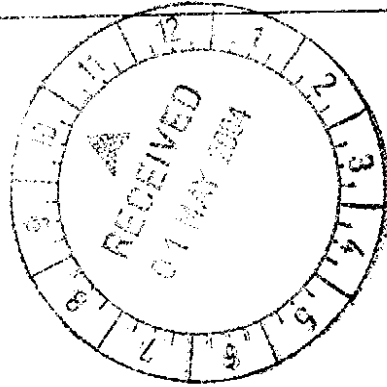




New South Wales Local Government, Clerical, Administrative, Energy, Airlines & Utilities Union



4 May 2004

Senator Peter Cook
The Chair of the Australian Senate

Dear Senator,

Re: Select Committee On The Free Trade Agreement Between Australia and The
United States of America

I write to you as the General Secretary of the USU in the State of New South Wales.

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 USU 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.

Your faithfully

B Harris
GENERAL SECRETARY

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