



FLUFFY SPIDER TECHNOLOGIES

Embedded Linux Software Solutions

Secretary Senate Select Committee on the FTA between Australia and the USA
Suite S1.30.1
The Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA
Email: FTA@aph.gov.au

30th April, 2004

Dear Committee Members,

I write to you with disgust that we, in Australia, are considering the indiscriminate adoption of some parts of the USA FTA.

The parts which are especially damaging are in Chapter 17, which relate to copyright and patent law.

Copyrights and patents were originally intended to encourage innovation by providing the inventor with some limited protection, from copying, as a reward for the time invested in creating the invention. Inventors had a reason to invent. The proposed FTA kills that reason.

Australia is very good at innovation and at the creation of technology. We must encourage our Australian Community to discover the next breakthrough, to pursue new paths and to experiment. Technology is something we excel at, and which is easy for us, as a an island nation, to export to the rest of the world.

This must be done without fear of large corporate lawsuits. It must be done without having to watch our backs, through expensive legal means.

Australia has always been a place of common sense. The proposed FTA will do away with that. It seeks to further line the pockets of already wealthy US companies at the expense of Australian innovation.

As a small business owner, trying to make headway in the Open Source Software Industry, I urge the Australian Parliament to reject these changes to copyright and patent law. They do nothing to enhance the interests of Australia and serve only the interests of corporate USA.

Yours Sincerely,

Robi Karp
Managing Director, Fluffy Spider Technologies