

To the Members of the Senate Select Committee

The proposed Free Trade Agreement fills me with misgivings.

As a person interested in world history I cannot find an example where any country entering an agreement of any kind with the United States of American has benefited to such a degree that the gains to the country outweigh the cost of the concessions gained by the United States. Australia is being conned.

In particular I am worried about any concessions that impact on our culture be it film, television, the written word, painting or in any electronic media now or in the future.

Australian have a proud culture. For a small population we have produced a great number of writers, actors, directors, painters etc and they have forged a proud heritage. Any agreement that impacts on the way Australians see ourselves, as an proud and independent people, must not be signed. We must cherish our culture and not sacrifice it for short term concessions in agriculture.

The various levels of so called economic gains from this Agreement seem very fluid and based on shaky grounds. Please do not ratify the Agreement.

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Bruce Miller & Meg Paul