

I refer to the submissions of:

Brendan Scott (being submission number 81)

Cybersource Pty Limited (being submission number 85)

CAUL (being submission number 115)

to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties reference on the Australia
- United States of America Free Trade Agreement.

I have read these submissions and I agree with the statements made in
them, especially in relation to the provisions in Chapter 17.

The Australian economy is increasingly dependant on its information
industries, and it is a grave concern that we are going to shackle
these industries with outdated approaches to law at a time when the
information market is becoming increasingly globalised and
internationally competitive. In order to effectively continue our
leadership role in this sector (for example, many leading open source
developers are based in Australia), it is imperative that we continue
to provide an appropriate and up-to-date legal environment that
actively supports the healthy and rapid development of information
industries.

I consequently feel that the Free Trade Agreement should be opposed in
its current form, until appropriate revisions are made on these
intellectual property/copyright issues.

Chris Foote