

Dear Secretary,

I refer to the submissions of Brendan Scott (being submission number 81) to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties reference on the Australia - United States of America Free Trade Agreement.

I have read this submission and I agree with the statements made in it in regard to the provisions in Chapter 17.

I would add to Mr Scott's final comments that the introduction of further limitations with regard to the patenting system will only serve to entrench an already gross bias toward large companies, rather than permitting new models of product development to compete. It's becoming quite apparent that, while some businesses have done extremely well using older models of development, newer models (including open source) are threatening these companies by producing products that are both cheaper and better, and the introduction of IP laws referred to in Chapter 17 would only serve to slant the playing field even more in the direction of larger, embedded businesses.

It's also important to consider that while many people consider software the only relevant area for the open source model, it can be applied to a wide range of areas including, but not limited to, science, education, health and even policy development.

Given the grievous affects that the current Free Trade Agreement would have on new models of production, I would urge you to reject this agreement until such time that an agreement can be reached that doesn't not seek to stifle advancements in development models.

regards

Rodd Clarkson