

From: Ms Margaret Ross Paul

The proposed free trade agreement with the United States of America fills me with misgivings.

As a person very interested in world history I cannot find an example where any country that has entered a similar agreement has benefited to such a degree that the gains outweigh the concessions the United States put in place.

I am particularly worried about any concessions that impact on our culture be it in film, TV, the written word, broadband or any future developments in the electronic scenario.

Australians have a proud culture. Per head of population, not withstanding our small population and therefore small markets, we have produced more writers, actors, painters and film directors than any other country. Any agreement that remotely threatens our culture must not be signed.

I urge the honourable members of The Senate not to ratify the Agreement and put our Australian heritage and culture before the rather wobbly promises and not yet satisfactorily proven economic benefits of the supposed free trade agreement.