The Secretary
Senate Select Committee on the AUSFTA,
Suite S1.30.1,
The Senate, Parliament House,
CANBERRA, A.C.T., 2600



Dear Secretary,

The proposed F.T.A. will put at risk our national sovereignty. While we rely on the U.S.A. to a large extent for mutual regional security it does not mean that we have to forfeit our right to make decisions based on what is best for Australia. The idea of dropping our stringent and successful quarantine standards to grease the skids for U.S. pork exporters smacks more of an economic integration than of a mutually beneficial trade agreement between two sovereign nations.

Therefore I would ask the Senate Inquiry to look very carefully at the ramifications for Australian agriculture before going down this intractable path, bearing in mind our Trade Minister's reluctance to protect Australian cotton farmers against heavily subsidised U.S. cotton for fear of upsetting U.S. commercial interests.

Yours sincerely,

Keith McKenna