



SUBMISSION TO AUSTRALIAN/US FTA

I wish to express my disgust and disappointment with the Government for its cowardly submitting to US demands re the Free Trade Agreement which appears to stand for 'Free To Americans'. The FTA will ensure that US mediocrity will have precedence over any Australian creativity. Moreover it effectively proves that Australians are inferior to and prepared to kowtow to the thuggery that has come to characterise the US dealings with the rest of the world. We need courage and integrity from the government, as standing up to bullies (as per Nelson Mandela and Ghandi) is the only way to defeat the evil they spread.

The Australian way of life is at stake here - our music, literature and other means of cultural expression. I urge the Senate therefore to make a stand and refuse to pass the enabling legislation on behalf of all of us.

It will take bravery and commitment to an ideal, qualities that were once considered an important part of the Australian identity, but the benefits will be worth it.

Sharon Payne