

The Secretary
Senate Free Trade Review Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir

I wish to register my strongest possible opposition to the proposed Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the USA.

The USA with a GDP of some \$9300 billion is a "whale" in comparison to Australia's "minnow" like GDP of around \$400 billion. With no chance of protecting essential Australian services such as energy, health, education, telecommunication or manufacturing we will be "swallowed whole" by the 500 or so Trans National Corporations (TNC's) that control some 70 % of the world economy. These TNC's have no national allegiance and we will see even more Australian jobs disappear offshore. Further more with the TNC's focus on profit we risk a downgrade in the quality of service and increases in price. In addition we will lose taxation revenue with fewer Australian employees and lower wages in an increasingly competitive environment.

Our television networks are currently plagued by low quality sit-coms from the numerous US production houses. The cost of sacrificing Australian government support of our vital domestic arts and entertainment industry to even more American rubbish is far too great.

Finally, this proposed FTA strikes a deadly knockout blow against our economic sovereignty. Australia is blessed with numerous natural resources that are envied by many. We must retain the right to use, conserve and disperse these firstly in the interests of Australians and then to the rest of the world. Already we have sacrificed far too much sovereignty over our affairs. This FTA will be the death knell of our nation state.

Your sincerely

Jeff Gehrmann