

Attn: The Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Re: Inquiry into the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for the Importation of Cavendish Bananas.

Dear Members of the Senate Committee,

It is with great concern that I write to you to raise objection to the import of bananas from the Philippines. It is my personal opinion that they should not be imported from the Philippines under any circumstances, whether it is for the continuity of supply to the public, or for trade balance or for profit, due to the high risk of importing diseased bananas into Australia.

Given the circumstances in the Philippines, the extent of corruption due to poverty in this third world country there would be no guarantee whatsoever of quality control and standards being met and maintained on an on-going basis, thereby posing significant high risk.

As a consumer of bananas and not having any association with the industry, it is my strong belief that it would be in the worst interest of this nation to lower our standards of imports, because of this high risk factor, and a disservice to Australian growers who work hard to ensure crops are pest and disease free.

The Philippines is a beautiful country with great people, but it is a well known fact that they have a serious problem with the high level of corruption throughout areas of authority. Personal financial interests would be the higher priority rather than the Australian Quarantine standards.

It is my earnest hope that commonsense would prevail in this decision, in order to prevent the inevitable disease import.