

Inquiry into Australia's Trade Agreement Process
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

email: fadt.sen@aph.gov.au

Section 1B of Submission by Anne Jackson for Inquiry into Australia's
Trade Agreement Process

Dear Senators

Below is section 1B. Please add this to my earlier submission (1A).

Section 1B "Importing Slave Labour"

Exploiting foreign workers, undermining wage rates, sub standard
living conditions (29 foreign workers on 457 visas sharing a five
bedroom one bathroom house).

"..this system is being rorted and unfortunately the system has just
been absolutely opened up by the federal government."

This link says it all:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-01-22/manildra-457/6033054>

Foreign workers earning under \$4 an hour at Bomaderry Ethanol plant by
Ainslie Drewitt-Smith Updated January 22, 2015 15:28:33

Ethanol is used in rocket fuel, it is a highly volatile fuel and
employing unskilled workers in an industry such as this is a disaster
waiting to happen. And disasters with volatile fuels can happen very
quickly as this article clearly shows:

Workers flee ethanol explosion
By Juan-Carlo Tomas and Antony Field
January 29, 2004
www.smh.com.au/articles/2004/01/28/1075088091566.html

The AWU is calling for an Inquiry into this explosion:

<http://www.awu.net.au/news/awu-calls-inquiry-ethanol-explosion>

Clearly importing slave labour is not in the best interests of our nation.

Section 1A

> I am very concerned about the process of signing Trade Agreements with
> other nations.

>

> I am aware that imported and exported foods will be irradiated.

>

> Irradiation plants for mangos (and other fresh foods), are required to
> ensure no Australian exports or imports could contain bio-hazards. The

- > long term effects of consuming irradiated foods is not known.
- >
- > While having a telephone conversation with my daughter she mentioned
- > that she was enjoying a mango imported from Peru that her partner had
- > purchased for her. She was unaware that it had most likely been
- > irradiated. There was no labeling to indicated if this fruit had been
- > irradiated. I was greatly concerned as she plans to marry her partner
- > in May and they are likely to start a family. She would not have
- > consumed the mango had she been aware that it could have been
- > irradiated. So already, we are seeing imports which compete with local
- > fresh production, and consumers are unaware of possible dangers to
- > their health and/or the possible dangers this may cause to their
- > future children. Nor do we know the health implications to undeveloped
- > or developing embryos.
- >
- > Already we are witnessing imported global floods of the market with
- > cheap imported irradiated foodstuffs, even ABC rural radio has been
- > talking it (irradiation) up. This is of great concern to me.
- >
- > I do not see the point in risking the health of future generations
- > who's parents are currently consuming irradiated foods, when we have a
- > healthy local market of fresh (unirradiated) food.
- >
- > Imported produce also greatly endangers the market share that local
- > produce growers currently hold. This endangers a secure future for
- > local farms which endangers our locally grown food security.
- >
- > Imported mangos also results in the practice of wasteful dumping of
- > local produce as is clear in this article:
- >
- > <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-01-28/dumped-mareeba-mangoes-prompts-consumer-outrage-at-food-waste/6052036>
- >
- > I have many other concerns, and i would like to discuss them further,
- > regarding issues such as;
- > - the danger of importing "slave labour" to our local job markets and
- > the knock on effect to the economies of small rural towns.
- > - the destruction of our rates of pay and our safe working conditions.
- > - the endangerment of our Pharma Benefits Scheme renowned as the best
- > system in the world.
- > - the secrecy, lack of absolute transparency and the complete lack of
- > community consultation in the signing of Trade Ageements.
- >
- > If any AGREEMENT is to be signed on behalf of the people of Australia,
- > then the people should clearly KNOW, COMPREHEND AND UNDERSTAND
- > everything about them - and BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY to Agree or
- > Disagree FIRST. To date, NO dialogue has been provided AT ALL by our
- > current leaders.
- >
- > For any other system of trade to be allowed - ie, for our current
- > leaders to sign long term agreements without the full comprehension of
- > the people they were elected to Represent, - then they are clearly NOT
- > acting in the best legal rights of their people, and therefore all
- > said signed agreements should be made legally null and void.
- >
- > Australians must be given the opportunity to have "Fair" Trade.
- >
- > Yours sincerely
- > Anne Jackson
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