



NSW
19/02/2016

The Committee Secretary,
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties,
P.O. Box 6021
Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600.

Dear Secretary,

We understand that your Committee is to study the ramifications of the Trans Pacific Partnership Treaty and would like to offer the following comments to the Committee Members.

1. Foreign Companies will be able to sue Local, State and Federal governments if they think that future laws might harm their proposed investments, even if these laws seek to protect Australian environmental and health conditions or occupational safety, wages and other conditions (many of which have been obtained over many years of striving). In particular, there is probably no effective protection, in Australia or overseas, of the rights of children.
2. These legal actions are not to be made through the usual Court processes, but through special tribunals, against whose decisions there is to be no appeal.
3. The so called environmental protection clauses do not mention Climate Change and its potential catastrophic effects environmentally, as well as economically.

We write this as pensioners, who will be affected if the International drug companies succeed in extending their monopoly rights on the many drugs we now receive under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, which we believe is one of the many policies being pursued by the United States Government.

Bill also writes this as a former Alderman on Burwood Council who feels that Local Government must be allowed to protect the living and working conditions of local residents.

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Finally we do not see why any Treaty with such wide ranging effects should be negotiated in Secret.

Will committee members stand up for Australians and their rights in these considerations.

Yours sincerely

Anne and Bill Byrne