

ASFTA
Submission No: 82

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The Secretary,
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties,
R1-109 Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600.

13th April 2004.

Dear Sir,

RECEIVED
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BY:.....

Ref: U.S. Australia FTA.

We are strongly opposed to the United States – Australia Free Trade Agreement.

Although our information has come mainly from media reports, (and by the way, why did the details of the Agreement have to be hammered out in such secrecy?), the Government does seem to have agreed to terms, which in the beginning they said they would never agree to. We refer particularly to items dealing with Australian content in the media, especially electronic and film, with ongoing effect for the industry which supports these; we simply do not trust this or in fact any Government to stand up to powerful interests in the United States when negotiating terms further into the future.

We are not convinced at all that there will be all-round benefits for Australia with the FTA and really do not see why we have to have it! The agricultural sector which was supposed to benefit so hugely from an FTA does not apparently do so, or at least not for a long while.

There are also question marks over our PBS. This was supposed to be entirely out of the equation.

It seems to us, that the Government's FTA is simply going to benefit the global media and pharmaceutical companies, destroying Australia's entity while doing so.

Yours Sincerely,

Theresa Baudert Oliver Baudert
Theresa and Oliver Baudert.

62/28 Torrens St. Braddon.ACT 2612.