

Sidley, Kristine (REPS)

From: Robyn Doherty [adoherty@ceinternet.com.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 April 2004 10:37 PM
To: Committee, Treaties (REPS)
Subject: Re: FTA

RECEIVED
16 APR 2004
BY:.....

Sorry! I just forgot to put a postal address on an e-mail
My Address: 235 Lansdowne Road, CUNDLETOWN 2430. I have added it below as well.
Thank you
A J Doherty

----- Original Message -----
From: Committee, Treaties (REPS)
To: Robyn Doherty
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2004 4:03 PM
Subject: RE: FTA

Thank you for your interest in the committee's inquiry into the USA-Australia Free trade Agreement. In order for your comments to be considered by the Committee as a submission there is a requirement for a postal address. This information is usually published along with your submission unless you request otherwise.

Fran Wilson
Office Administrator
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

-----Original Message-----
From: Robyn Doherty [mailto:adoherty@ceinternet.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 8 April 2004 12:03 PM
To: Committee, Treaties (REPS)
Subject: FTA

235 Lansdowne Road,
CUNDLETOWN 2430

Dear Sir / Madam

I have studied the NAFTA quite extensively and found it to be a retrograde step for Mexico and Canada as well as for many sections of the USA.

Having studied our FTA with USA, I find many similarities but with some extra problems for Australia.

weakens price controls on medicines by allowing drug companies to seek reviews of decisions by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, sets up a new joint policy committee which gives the US government a voice in Australian medicines policy based on US trade policy, not on the Australian policy of access to medicines for all.

It limits Australian content rules for new forms of media, and allows the US government to challenge these rules as a barrier to trade.

It adopts US copyright law, leading to higher costs for libraries, schools and universities,

It "binds" or freezes many areas of state and local government regulation at existing levels and limits the ability of governments to make new laws and policies on essential services like water,

It limits the powers of the Foreign Investment Review Board to review investment in the national interest, so that 90% of US investment will not be reviewed,

It sets up joint committees based on US trade policy to give the US government a say in quarantine and regulation of food labelling,

It outlaws government purchasing policies that give preference to local products or require US contractors to form links with local firms to support local employment.

It has a disputes process which enables the US government to challenge many Australian laws and regulations before a trade tribunal on the grounds that they are too burdensome for business or a barrier to trade.

Before Australians make the terrible mistake of being locked into an agreement that we will be bound to, I urge you to object to this agreement. Very few Australians and Americans for that matter, will benefit.

Yours faithfully
A J Doherty