

The Committee Secretariat
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee Department of the Senate

By email

28th March 2014

Dear Sir/ Madam

Inquiry into Trade and Foreign Investment (Protecting the Public Interest) Bill 2014

I wish to submit my strong opposition to the Trans Pacific Partnership, which is contrary to the well-being of Australians. The rhetoric of "free trade" might appeal, but like all freedoms, trade must be in a controlled context to provide benefits.

In particular I am concerned about the risks of the TPP to

- air and water through development of coal seam and shale gas
- health through loss of regulation of pharmaceutical benefits
- food through investment in agricultural land and water
- food through loss of control of genetically modified organisms
- food through inability to require country of origin labelling
- manufacturing industries through risks to local procurement policies

Unarguably air, water and food are essential for our survival. There may be uncertainty as to the level and extent of risks to each. However precautionary principle demands that we protect our well-being. Ironically this is not against the well-being of people in countries, less well off than ourselves - free trade is a risk to everyone, and the interests of humanity will be served by the protections that may be abolished in a free trade agreement.

Yours sincerely

Dr Rosalie Schultz