

Tom Marwick

To the

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

**RE: Customs Amendment
(Comprehensive and Progressive
Agreement for Trans-Pacific
Partnership Implementation) Bill
2018 [Provisions], Customs Tariff
Amendment (Comprehensive
Agreement for Trans-Pacific
Implementation) Bill 2018
[Provisions]**

The parliamentary committee must examine the proposed TPP-11 and determine if it will infringe on the sovereign powers of the Australian government.

Will this trade agreement, and particularly the ISDS, hand over sovereign powers of the Government to large corporations?

Sovereignty that might be affected could be;

- State owned enterprise's ability to operate on a low or no profit basis to provide services to the population.
- The government's ability to set and maintain labour laws especially minimum wages and employee conditions.
- The government's ability to protect the environment by restricting the activities large corporations in environmentally sensitive areas.

The committee should also examine if the TPP-11 will encourage competition in the market place or it provide conditions were very large corporations will gain further advantage and squeeze out competitors.

The committee should examine the affect the TPP-11 would have on underdeveloped and developing nations. Does it create a climate where these economies will be impeded in their development and there for remain eternally dependant on foreign aid and vulnerable to exploitation by private investors.

If the senate inquiry finds that the TPP-11 hands over the Sovereignty of Australia to other entities or is even uncertain that it might hand over sovereignty, whether they are foreign governments or private companies, then to vote for the ratification of this trade agreement is an act of treason.

Because of the statement that it is a non reversible treaty, if there is any doubt in the benefit to our country or the risks it proposes then we must not sign until all doubts have been resolved.

As noted about BREXIT and NAFTA, no deal is better than a bad deal, the Senate is not given the option to accept the deal without the ISDS. The terms of reference are the implementing legislation, which is the only point at which parliament has a chance to vote on the TPP-11 at all. Parliament does not get to vote on the whole text, which was only released after it was finalised, and includes ISDS, removal of labour market testing for vulnerable temporary workers and many other dangerous provisions.

The Parliament must reject this legislation.

Yours Sincerely

Tom Marwick