

Dear Joint Standing Committee on Treaties,

The rebadged TPP (Comprehensive Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership, aka TPP-11) is fundamentally flawed. I urge you, respectfully but strenuously, not to endorse the implementing legislation.

The thrust of the revised treaty, as of the original TPP-12, is entirely to facilitating the rights of corporations and preventing governments from fulfilling their domestic obligations to protect citizens and their rights, particularly but not exclusively as workers and consumers, to regulate the environment, and to provide safety on food and health issues. It provides, for example, for workers from six countries to come to Australia for jobs without any labour market testing. It essentially freezes regulation in key areas at current levels and would prevent the Australian government from developing new regulations to suit changing conditions.

The European Court of Justice has ruled that the TPP violates national sovereignty and this is clear from even a casual perusal of the text. To implement this treaty would be to undermine Australian sovereignty at a time when the citizens of Australia are angry at the failure of government to respond to many major issues.

Refusal to endorse the implementing legislation is the only option compatible with national sovereignty.

Yours faithfully,

Charles Sowerwine  
