Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement Submission 10

KAFTA should not be ratified because it includes investor state dispute settlement (ISDS). ISDS clauses in free trade agreements give multinational corporations the power to sue a government for any policy that hurts their profits. An ISDS tribunal would have the authority to overrule a national government and force it to pay unlimited compensation to companies, with no accountability. It would effectively be an attack on national sovereignty and democracy, and a radical transfer of power from government to corporations.

If governments sign away their power to regulate transnational corporations, then it will become virtually impossible to solve climate change and other pressing issues of the 21st century, because any policy in the public interest could be overturned through ISDS.

Yours faithfully

James Wight