



AUSTRALIA - KOREA BUSINESS COUNCIL



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The Chairperson
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee,
PO BOX 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

15th September 2014

Dear Chair,

Re: Inquiry into the Customs Amendment (Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation) Bill 2014 and the Customs Tariff Amendment (Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement Implementation) Bill 2014.

I refer to your letter of 5th September 2014 inviting the Australia-Korea Business Council (AKBC) to provide a submission addressing the bill.

The AKBC has been in existence since 1978 and meets on an almost annual basis with Korean business (Korea Australia Business Council – KABC).

Since 2004 both Councils have been advocating the introduction of a free trade agreement between the two countries of Australia and the Republic of Korea.

We welcome the introduction of this bill to the Australian Parliament and support the immediate bringing into force of KAFTA.

The AKBC/KABC will be holding its 35th Joint Meeting in Seoul on the 2nd October 2014 at which time we will be encouraging Governments from both countries to an immediate bringing into force of KAFTA.

I attach a copy of members of our executive committee and some background to the AKBC for committee members' reference. I also attach a copy of a press release from our chairman Hon. Mark Vaile AO supporting the passage of KAFTA through the Australian Parliament.

Yours Truly,

John Wotton
Executive Director
AKBC
15th September 2014