

To whom it may concern

I am not opposed to 'free' trade in principle, and I am most certainly not opposed to 'fair' trade, but I am opposed to international trade agreements that in the name of 'free' trade provide trading, economic and quasi-legal benefits for selected powerful groups (whether they be nations, companies or individuals) while simultaneously seriously undermining democracy, equity, health, workers' rights and conditions of employment, environmental protection and national sovereignty. And for what? Analyses have repeatedly shown that the economic benefits flowing from 'free' trade agreements are marginal at best.

The TPP-11, now apparently called the Comprehensive Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), contains all of these features, features that are highly detrimental to the majority of the Australian population. I understand that you are currently considering this partnership agreement and I urge you not to endorse it.

I am particularly opposed to ISDS arrangements. I fail to see how any government would willingly hand over to little more than a kangaroo-court the ability to make decisions about the 'legality' of measures to protect the health and wellbeing of its citizens and environment and then to impose penalties. To me this is an abject failure of government and its harmful consequences have been demonstrated on numerous occasions around the world.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Sainsbury

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.