

Stop the phony “free trade” agreements STOP the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and TISA

Dear member / senator

I am a university graduate in History, Economics, Economic History, and Politics, further qualified in specialist disciplines and graduate qualified in management and public administration. My long working life has been significantly successful both in public service (local government) and in private enterprise (as a computer systems sales manager, and as a property developer and manager).

As an informed person, I am appalled at the blind belief in so-called “free trade agreements” (FTAs) and by the falsehoods being pedalled by corporate agents. **These agreements for the TPP (or any so-called-FTA like the currently proposed TPP) are not about genuinely free or responsible trading. They are mainly about extending in time and in scope exclusive patents and monopolies to extort excessive profits, about avoiding environmental and employment standards, about escaping law enforcement.**

The process is totally dishonest and actively anti-democratic:

- The undemocratic secrecy to avoid rational informed scrutiny,
- The corporate drafting and corporate insider privileges at negotiations, and
- The blatant ministerial lies during negotiation of FTAs.

Indeed, if it was not for leaks and whistle-blowers, the voter-citizens would have had no knowledge and no chance to respond. This is the true fruit of FTAs – the assassination of responsible democratic government.

The TRUE facts are there to be seen, and the critical issues are historically documented.

These FTAs benefit only the smallest few, the transnational corporations and the super-rich 1% of populations. Meanwhile, these alleged-FTAs will break our economy, will destroy our local industries, and they will rob us of due taxation to provide the services which our citizen people need and all businesses use. They destroy local jobs and put the growth off-shore to the cheapest source, regardless of quality and national interests.

Centuries of economic and social history demonstrate that nations have grown their strength by putting their own people first,

- by nurturing “home grown” industries,
- by processing what they produce as primary product,
- by generating manufacturing industries,
- by expanding services which support those and employ their own citizens,
- by controlling imports and encouraging exports,
- by selective tariffs and by asserting foreign exchange control,
- by assessing each proposition according to the criterion – does it benefit the PEOPLE of our nation, for the longer term, and in a continuing sense, tested by honest evidence.

These are the responsibilities of all true governments. This is what a national government is established, responsible and bound to do.

These responsibilities also strengthen the nation’s ability to keep local control of its own security, its essential national resources, vital services and facilities, and defence operational capacity.

This is the repeated lesson of history, but corporate-sponsored parties in modern governments defy their responsibilities to their citizen people.



The real economics, the trade numbers and analysis should be established on the impacts of FTAs on the people of a nation like ours. And they are not "benefits".

The true facts are not much publicised in corporate-owned and corporate-dependent media. The truth is not made readily publicly available, because the "benefits" are zero at best.

The impacts of FTAs are rather massive losses.

From history we can clearly see that the general impact of such FTAs on countries that have liveable wages, decent working conditions, and a protected environment:

- loss of local jobs and income;
- loss of industries;
- loss of control;
- loss of taxes to serve our people;
- loss of sovereignty;
- loss of independent judicial oversight;
- loss of environment quality by contamination and destruction; and
- zero regard for the long-term social values and life sustainability.

Therefore, the negotiations are secret!! The corrupt purpose explains the hustling, lobbying, and secret drafting by multi-nationals. These FTAs are an attempted coup-d'état, overthrowing government of the people and for the people.

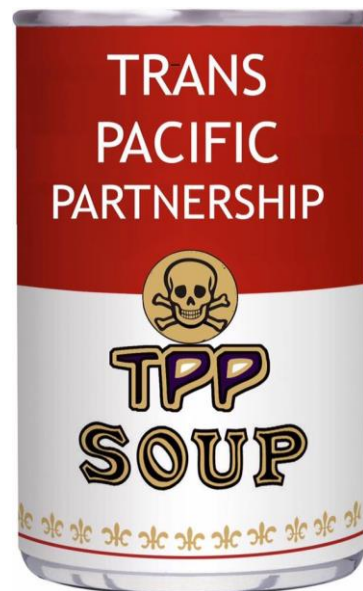
If proof is required, examine the details of the effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on the people of its partners. Even a primary school child could see the likely results of the ChAFTA... a trade agreement between a giant nation and a colony. Patently, the big powerful nations always exempt and protect or secretly subsidise their own industries - leaving us without the right or means to support our own local people and industries.

Multinational corporations are the beneficiaries. It is in their dictated terms and their very short-term interests that the "trade deals" are made. The FTAs allow multinational corporations to locate off-shore their operations, their employment, their in-puts.

The FTAs not only allow, but they guarantee that these corporate non-people will evade their due taxes by profit-shifting, while they are using services provided by local taxes, levied on others (mainly citizen people).

Multi-national corporations either seek to import cheap (almost slave) labour or seek to export Australian jobs to places with cheap labour - or do both.

Having denied our governments the taxes on incomes, trans-national companies also off-shore their profits to pay little or no company taxes.



Ingredients:

Sewage
Refined Sugar
Arsenic
Mercury
Undisclosed toxins
Fracking fluids
Salmonella
Roundup
GMO's

Ingestion may cause
Loss of jobs, health,
sovereignty, and the
American Dream.

Symptoms include:
Fascism, Oligarchy,
Corporatocracy, and
Plutocracy.

Then there is the issue of ISDS, which is the deliberately under-stated and mis-named Investor State Dispute Settlement mechanism. In any of its forms, it is a deliberate device to break sovereignty and national judicial arbitration of law.

Under TPP and ISDS, corporations demand the right to sue our governments if we try to control their rampant unprincipled greed that destroys our environment and health standards and opportunities for national self-sufficiency.

ISDS is not an independent tribunal but a totally fundamentally corrupt self-serving tool of the multi-national corporations. It stands apart from national law and courts, in fact above and without recourse to any courts established by our nation. It is totally a tool of foreign and irresponsible corporations. The advocates and judges are the same recycled corporate legal hacks.

That is an extremely bad proposal, BUT our local corporations and loyal businesses do not get offered the same rights !! These "trade agreements" and their dispute "tribunals" actually **favour foreigner corporations** over local industry and citizens. That is treachery and traitorous. That is never "free trade". It is seeking and submitting to rape and pillage.

To select just one very personal impact of FTAs is that they usually result in longer patents and copyrights and more costly medicines. Even cures based on Australian tax-funded research end up being manufactured by foreigners and shipped to us at monopoly prices. Generic medicines are prohibited.

Citizens of the USA are already exploited and plundered in their dire and desperate illnesses, and the greedy corporations want to extend that exploitation to citizens here and everywhere to achieve even greater super-profits and super-rich owner-directors.

FINALLY AND MOST DEADLY, these FTAs would effectively deny us and all "partner" nations the legislative right (or the financial means) to avert the causes of anthropogenic climate disruption.

The ISDS would/will allow corporations to over-rule reasonable environmental standards as restrictions on free trade.

The ISDS places possible future corporate profits ahead of survivability for the next generation.

The ISDS effectively takes away the right to legislate for safe work places, safe products.

The ISDS trashes our control over environmentally secure manufacturing, and our rights to quality of air, water, and food.



So, do I support these FTAs? Absolutely NOT.

I reject Australian governments' slavish following of narrow neo-con "liberal" propaganda (lies) from the multinational corporations in whose very short-term interests the "trade deals" are made.

Australia has the resources, the people, the creativity to stand strong and independent, but all that is being undermined by exploitive corporations.

So I have a simple message:

- 1. Reject the TPP and ISDS. Now. Finally.**
- 2. Never begin considering TISA (Trade In Services Agreement). Dump it like "Mr Fluffy" loose-fill asbestos - because the effects are just as deadly!**
- 3. Review critically all other existing or proposed "free trade agreements" that destroy our manufacturing, processing, and mining industries, and weed out anything like ISDS.**

Then I ask myself, why am I writing again and again to elected members and senators of all parties, and getting sensible replies only from The Greens ?

Is it because the other parties are doing the will of their true sponsors, their electoral donors, their corporate masters, their tax-avoiding friends?

Is it because the other parties are pathetically or wilfully ignorant of the FACTS ?

Please get some independent social and economic research and FACTS: get research that goes beyond the simpleton's "trade is good" jingo; get research by analysts of historical social and economic hard data.

Yours sincerely,

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[REDACTED]

Email to representatives

To local media

To jsct@aph.gov.au

To fadt.sen@aph.gov.au

Further, I also support the AFTINET Submission to the TPP-11 Inquiry

The TPP-11, which has been rebadged as the Comprehensive Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), would accelerate the decline of Australian self-sufficiency in product, self-determination in law and policy, as well as destroying local industry to enrich foreign multinational corporations and their super-rich owners / directors.

Please DO NOT ENDORSE the implementing legislation for the TPP-11.

Despite the name change, the TPP-11 still has 30 chapters and 6000 pages of legally binding rules which suit global corporations but mostly restrain future governments from regulating in the public interest. Only 22 clauses have been suspended, but not removed, pending the US re-joining the deal, and many harmful clauses remain, as listed below.

- **Bad for democracy:** the TPP-11 gives special rights to foreign investors to bypass national courts and sue governments for millions of dollars in unfair international tribunals over changes to domestic laws, even if those laws are in the public interest. This is known as ISDS. Global companies have recently sued governments over medicine prices, protection of the environment, protection of Indigenous land rights and even a rise in the minimum wage.
- The European Court of Justice has recently ruled that ISDS undermines national legal autonomy and is incompatible with EU law, and US Trade Representative Lighthizer has said that the US wants to withdraw from ISDS arrangements in the North American Free Trade Agreement because they are a threat to US domestic laws.
- **Bad for workers' rights:** the labour rights chapter is not fully enforceable in the same way as the rest of the agreement. The TPP-11 also has provisions for more vulnerable temporary migrant workers from Vietnam, Malaysia, Japan, Canada, Mexico and Chile without first testing if local workers are available. This is contrary to the government's own claims that it has reintroduced such testing.
- **Bad for access to essential services:** chapters on trade in services which freeze regulation of services at current levels could restrict future governments from responding to change and regulating essential services like TAFE, energy services and financial services, even if there are demonstrated market failures.
- **Bad for the environment:** the environment chapter is not fully enforceable in the same way as the rest of the agreement and does not mention climate change. Foreign corporations can bypass national courts and sue governments for millions in unfair international tribunals over environmental laws.
- **No clear economic benefits:** Australia already has free trade agreements with all but two of the other TPP-11 countries, and without access to the US market, any economic benefits are likely to be even less than they were under the original deal.

The 22 suspended clauses are mostly about medicine and copyright monopolies. Other governments had only reluctantly agreed to US proposals to increase monopolies on biologic medicines and delay access to cheaper medicines, and for longer copyright monopolies, so they could gain access to the US market. Some of these clauses have been suspended, pending the US re-joining the deal. But the intellectual property chapter still reinforces existing monopolies on medicines and restricts the ability of governments to change such regulation in future, for example to **reduce** monopolies on medicines. All of the suspended clauses could be restored in future if the US re-joins.