

21 Stephenson Road
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FTA
Submission No:9.....

The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
R1 - 109
Parliament House
CANBERRA. 2600

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7 APR 2004

BY:

Dear Sir/Madam

All our reading of the most likely outcome for Australia from the signing of the proposed free trade agreement with the USA indicates significant negative consequences.

In many of the elements in the agreement Australia will give up its sovereign right to determine what is appropriate and in the best interests of all Australians.

Tariff cuts, government purchasing rules, media content regulations, quarantine and food labelling, the right to regulate essential services and foreign investment, the extension of the copyright period, an 18 year phase in period for beef and dairy tariff reductions, the higher costs of medicines and the dispute process (which has been especially harmful to the Canadians and the Mexicans) are all issues which will mitigate against Australia's best interests.

It is of the utmost importance that the Australia US Free Trade agreement not be signed.

Yours faithfully


John and Margaret Hale.