

Senate Economics Committee.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my extreme disquiet at the proposed amendment to the Trade Practices Act, which seeks to empower the ACCC to represent companies and industries which are boycotted due to unethical or cruel industry practices. I feel this is an attack on free speech, and the right to choose whether to support unethical behaviour.

I certainly do not consider it to be in the public interest to use taxpayers' dollars to finance legal action against those who bring to public notice those practices which are contrary to what society would wish for, or approve of.

Extremely worrying to me is the prospect that, in a supposedly democratic society, ethical individuals and organisations will no longer feel they are free to inform others of practices which would be considered by most decent members of society to be unacceptable and unethical, for instance, sweat shops, blood diamonds, and cruel animal production practices.

I very much fear that the powers of the ACCC will be open to abuse in representing businesses and industries which engage in practices of which the public, if they were aware, would surely oppose. If those powers are then used to suppress information to which consumers have the right, and to prosecute those who bring it to their notice, then I feel that we, as a community, are being denied our rights.

As a consumer, and a member of what I sincerely hope will continue to be our democratic society, I feel the right to be informed, and make my choices based on that information, is an integral component of our democracy - I do not wish for anyone who informs me about caged eggs to be charged with "secondary boycott," and prosecuted using my tax dollar!

Thank you for your consideration.

Pamela Fioretti.