

Senate Select Committee

Members:

Senator Peter Cook (ALP, WA) (Chair)
Senator Brandis (Liberal Party, QLD) (Deputy Chair)
Senator Boswell (National Party, QLD)
Senator Conroy (ALP, VIC)
Senator Ferris (Liberal Party, SA)
Senator Harris (One Nation, QLD)
Senator O'Brien (ALP, Tasmania)
Senator Ridgeway (Australian Democrats, NSW)

Dear Members,

I am appalled by two aspects of the FTA, namely that the public are so badly informed, and the fact that we are trading away our national sovereignty. There is not widespread public knowledge of the FTAs total ramifications.

I am a writer of fiction, and I know how difficult it is to be published in Australia, without further competition from USA. I watch television, and I am shocked at how many programs already come from USA. Does the Government seriously think that the Americans will let us have more regulations on pay TV or any on new media. We have effectively outsourced our cultural policy to Hollywood.

I am appalled to discover that our detention centres (which are appalling in any sense) and prisons are run by American companies. How can we effectively mount protest at iniquities when we run the risk of being sued by USA corporations for loss of income?

Any FTA that Australian enters should allow us to adapt and respond to the future.

How dare the PM John Howard sign off on this dreadfully biased agreement that locks Australia into so many deals to America's advantage.

Please toss it out as it deserves and allow country to be in control of our own culture and trade.

Yours faithfully,
Julia Osborne