



AFTINET
Australian Fair Trade
& Investment Network Ltd

128 Chalmers Street
Surry Hills, NSW, 2010
Phone: 02 9699 3686
Fax: 02 9699 3717
Email: campaign@aftinet.org.au
ACN 097 603 131
ABN 83 659 681 462
www.aftinet.org.au

(date), 2016

Dear

We the undersigned (final number of endorsing organisations) community organisations representing over two million Australians are gravely concerned about the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal between 12 Pacific Rim countries including Australia, the U.S and Japan.

The TPP faces widespread community opposition because it:

- allows foreign corporations to sue governments over changes to domestic law in unfair international tribunals which have no independent judiciary, no precedents and no appeals. Cases against tobacco regulation can be excluded, but 'safeguards' for other health, environment, labour rights and public interest regulation are ineffective and will not prevent future cases.
- locks in stronger monopoly rights for pharmaceutical companies which will delay access to cheaper medicines, leading to future higher prices for costly biologic medicines. Australia's law on biologic medicines will not change immediately. But there is a commitment to deliver up to three years of additional monopoly by administrative means, which would cost the PBS hundreds of millions of dollars a year for each year of delay in availability of cheaper medicines.
- locks in strong enforceable rights for copyright holders (mostly global corporations), which could prevent future governments from protecting consumer rights.
- despite promises, contains only weak commitments to environmental standards, only one of which is fully enforceable. It does not mention climate change. Global corporations could sue governments for taking action against climate change or other environmental measures.

- contains only [weak commitments to labour rights](#), many of which are not enforceable, and will not protect the rights of increased numbers of temporary migrant workers.
- removes labour market testing for temporary migrant workers from five TPP countries. This will expose more of these vulnerable workers to exploitation as demonstrated by the [China FTA](#) and shown by other [recent studies](#).
- Like other trade agreements, will not deliver on [promises of increased jobs](#). A recent [World Bank study](#) of the TPP found negligible economic benefits for Australia, partly because it already has free trade agreements with the US and Japan, and all but three of the other TPP countries.

Despite this, the Government has refused to [undertake independent assessment](#) of the TPP's economic costs and benefits, including costs and risks to government of ISDS and stronger medicine and copyright monopolies.

The Government-dominated Joint Standing Committee Inquiry on the TPP will resume after the election and report before the implementing legislation is introduced to Parliament. This legislation should not be rushed through without proper independent assessment.

The TPP cannot proceed without implementing legislation from the two largest economies, the U.S and Japan.

In the U.S, there is strong opposition to the TPP from [both sides of politics](#) and both presidential candidates, Donald Trump and Hilary Clinton, do not support it. Clinton has recently [strengthened her opposition](#), and the [U.S. Congress](#) will not even consider it until after the November presidential election.

In New Zealand, the Labour Party has confirmed it [will vote against](#) the TPP in the NZ Parliament.

In this context, it would be unwise for the Australian Parliament to rush consideration of the implementing legislation.

Here in Australia, Labor, Greens and other parties have a majority in the Senate and could conduct a Senate inquiry.

We are calling on you to support a Senate Inquiry into the TPP and to commit to vote against the TPP's implementing legislation when it comes before the parliament.

We look forward to your reply.

Please don't hesitate to telephone with any queries on (02) 9699 3686 or 0419 695 841.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Patricia Ranald, Convenor, Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network

This letter is endorsed by the following organisations:

Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network