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February 1, 2016

Dear

We the undersigned 59 community organisations representing millions of Australians are gravely concerned about the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) text agreed by the US, Australia and 10 other Pacific Rim countries, which was released on November 5, 2015. It is likely to be tabled in Parliament this month, then examined by parliamentary committees before Parliament votes on any required implementing legislation before final ratification of the agreement.

Expert analysis of the text reveals that the TPP:

- 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. Governments could be sued for taking action against climate change, undermining the Paris climate agreement.
- locks in [stronger monopoly rights](#) for pharmaceutical companies which will lead to higher prices for medicines. Australia's law on costly biologic medicines will not change immediately. But there is a commitment to deliver up to 3 years of additional monopoly for biologic medicines, which will 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](#), which are mostly global corporations, which could prevent future governments from protecting consumer rights.
- contains only [weak labour rights](#) and [environmental standards](#) 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 5 TPP countries. This will expose more of these workers to exploitation as seen in [7-Eleven stores and other industries](#) without testing if Australian workers are available.

Many [independent commentators](#) have argued that the TPP reduces democratic rights for claimed economic benefits which will not be delivered. A recent World Bank study of the TPP reported in the [Sydney Morning Herald](#) shows negligible economic benefits for Australia, because it already has free trade agreements with the US and Japan, and all but three of the other TPP countries.

There is also strong opposition to the TPP in the U.S. Congress from [both sides of politics](#), with demands from conservatives to change the text to gain even [more rights for pharmaceutical and tobacco companies](#). It would be foolish for the Australian Parliament to endorse the TPP when it is unlikely to be passed by the U.S. Congress in 2016.

Following recommendations from the [Australian Competition and Consumer Commission](#), the [Harper Competition Policy Review](#), the [Productivity Commission](#), [Public Health experts](#) and [UN special rapporteurs on human rights](#), we believe Parliament should not vote on the implementing legislation until the following independent assessments of the text have been conducted:

- An independent assessment of TPP economic costs and benefits, as offered by the Productivity Commission, including costs and risks to government of ISDS and extension of medicine and copyright monopolies;
- Independent health, environment, human rights and labour rights assessments of the TPP.

In the absence of such independent assessments we consider that the TPP poses grave risks to the public interest and ask you to oppose the implementing legislation.

Yours sincerely,



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

This letter is endorsed by the following organisations:

National Organisations

Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network
Australian Catholic Social Justice Council
Australian Conservation Foundation
Australian Council of Trade Unions
Public Health Association Australia
Australian Federation of Aids Organisations
Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education
ActionAid Australia
Caritas Australia
World Vision Australia
Friends of the Earth
Greenpeace
National Toxics Network
Wilderness Society
350.Org
Catholic Religious Australia
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Justice and Peace Centre
Sisters of Charity
The Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education

The Grail Global Justice Network
Uniting World (Uniting Church)
Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA
Australian Education Union
Australian Manufacturing Workers Union
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
Australian Services Union
Community and Public Sector Union (PSU Group)
Community and Public Sector Union (SPSF Group)
Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union
Finance Sector Union
Electrical Trades Union of Australia
National Union of Workers
National Tertiary Education Union
Textile Clothing and Footwear Union of Australia
United Voice
Mothers Advancing Deliciously Good Eating (MADGE)
SEARCH Foundation

State and regional organisations

Conservation Council ACT Region
Environment Victoria
Nature Conservation Council New South Wales
Queensland Conservation Council
Benalla Sustainable Future Group
Climate Action Monaro
Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle
ClimActs (Victoria)
CLIMARTE (Victoria)
Locals into Victoria's Environment (LIVE)
Logan and Albert Conservation Association Inc (Queensland)
North East Regional Sustainability Alliance (NERSA)
ParraCAN (NSW)
Sutherland Shire Environment Centre (NSW)
Wangaratta Sustainability Network
Wodonga and Albury Toward Climate Health (WATCH)
Australian Services Union NSW
Communication Workers Union Victoria
Data Stream Pty Ltd
NSW Nurses and Midwives Association
Older Women's Network NSW
South Coast Labour Council.