



27 November 2008

Attn: Ms Cathy Raper

Trade Commitments Branch
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Director, FTA Commitments and Implementation Section
R.G. Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
Barton ACT 0221

**Request for Submissions Regarding Possible Australian Participation in a
Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement**

Dear Ms Raper

It is with pleasure that the American Chamber of Commerce in Australia (Amcham) submits this letter in response to the Department's request for submissions on possible Australian participation in a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement. Amcham is national organisation with over 2,000 members around Australia. Our members include many of the largest companies in Australia, involved in a diverse range of activities including manufacturing, technology and services.

Amcham is supportive of initiatives intended to enhance and further facilitate trade and investment between the United States and Australia and in the Asia Pacific region. Many of our members have multinational operations and conduct business throughout this part of the world. Initiatives such as the proposed TPP have the potential to achieve both increased liberalisation and greater consistency in the trade and investment environment and are therefore are desirable.

It is also our understanding that the United States and Australia are interested in achieving "high quality" trade agreements to provide tangible and meaningful benefits to companies and individuals doing business in the region. In our view, the P-4 would serve as an excellent platform from which to negotiate a further liberalising agreement given the quality of the agreements currently in effect or being finalized between Australia and the P-4 countries. With the addition of the United States and potentially Peru and Vietnam later on, there is the potential for significant additional progress of tangible benefit to the economies of the negotiating nations.

Finally, we should point out that a substantial portion of Amcham members are engaged in some form of services trade. A TPP agreement could afford one of the most promising opportunities to achieve significant improvements regionally in

**American
Chamber of
Commerce
in Australia**

Suite 4, Gloucester Walk
88 Cumberland Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Tel: +61 2 9241 1907

Fax: +61 2 9251 5220

Email:

nswamcham@amcham.com.au

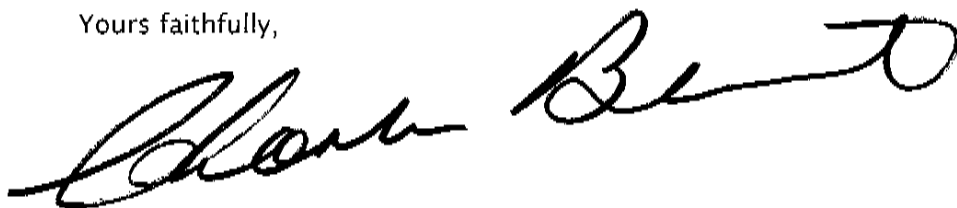
www.amcham.com.au

ABN 62 000 361 633

the area of services. This outcome could also serve as a model for expanded improvements both outside of the TPP and within the agreement if and as it is expanded to more countries. Indeed, a TPP could play a useful complementary role to the ongoing efforts within the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum to achieve trade and investment liberalisation within a realistic time frame.

For all of the foregoing reasons, we at Amcham are highly supportive of Australia's participation in the negotiation of a TPP agreement. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if we can be of any further assistance in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Blunt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "C" at the beginning and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Australia

Charles Blunt
National Director

Patrick Fazzino
Chairman
Trade and Government Committee