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Media Release

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Australian and US groups express joint concerns over Australia-US Free Trade Agreement

Australian and US unions, environment and health organisations will release joint statements on Monday 1 December setting out their concerns about the proposed Australia-US Free Trade Agreement (USFTA).

The joint statements will be released by:

- The Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) and the AFL-CIO,
- The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) and the Sierra Club (US),
- Greenpeace Asia Pacific and Greenpeace USA, and
- The Public Health Association of Australia and the Public Health Association of America.

The release of the joint statements on 1 December coincides with the first day of the December round of USFTA negotiations in Washington. The USFTA is opposed by a wide range of community organisations.

“These negotiations could have a huge impact on affordable access to medicines, which is of concern to the Public Health Associations of both Australia and the US”, said Dr. Peter Sainsbury, President of the Public Health Association of Australia. “It is now clear that the US negotiators will try to force changes to Australia’s pharmaceutical patents laws, and that will have a significant impact on the cost of medicines in Australia,” said Dr. Sainsbury.

[insert quotes from Sharan Burrow and from ACF]

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