



AFTINET
Australian Fair Trade
& Investment Network Ltd

AFTINET Ltd
Level 1, 46-48 York Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Phone: 02 9299 7833
Fax: 02 9299 7855
Email: pranald@piac.asn.au
Website: www.aftinet.org.au
ABN 83 659 681 462
ACN 097 603 131

Media Release

22/10/03

Premiers should be wary of USFTA limits on state and local laws, say community groups

"The State Premiers expression of support for possible economic benefits of a Free Trade Agreement show that they have been briefed only on the possible benefits and not the costs" Dr Patricia Ranald of the Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network said today.

The US FTA would "freeze" all state and local government regulation of services and prevent new regulation in areas like water

have a "negative list" structure which means that all government regulation on services and investment is included unless specifically excluded.

"The FTA would enable corporations to challenge laws and sue governments for damages. Under similar provisions in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) the giant courier company United Parcel Service has challenged Canada Post's public provision of postal services as a barrier to trade. Australia Post supplies a similar service and could be under threat.

Dr Patricia Ranald (w) 02 9299 7833 (mob) 0419 695 841