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From: Jared Pearson [<mailto:jpearson@bigpond.net.au>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 05, 2000 11:00 PM

To: committee.reps@aph.gov.au

Subject: WTO submission

Hi,

Regarding Australia's relationship with the WTO, my thoughts are we should take a step back and see if our continual support of it will benefit our nation in the future.

My greatest concern and suggestion I have right now is that australia: Petitions the WTO to keep open records of the minutes of every meeting, vote and ruling so that they can be held up to the light of public scrutiny & evaluation.

We have this globally binding organisation to regulate trade but we have no other global organisations to counter balance the WTO. This has to change if the majority of the world's population is going to benefit from economic liberalisation. Free trade is trade above all other considerations, which seems to be the wto's goal. But as in real life there are many other considerations to be made than the economics of a situation. We need to address this now before supporting an increased push towards free trade.

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