

"John - Geneng"  
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16/12/2004 11:41 AM  
Please respond to  
"John - Geneng"

To:  
cc:  
Subject:

China FTA/People/DFATL@DFATI

16 Dec 2004.  
Att - Laurel Wityk.

Dear Laurel.

We have been dismayed to hear that the federal government is proposing another Free Trade Agreement, this time with China.

We are a toolmaking, metal stamping company. We have been established since 1980 and we employ 19 people including 2 apprentices. In our toolroom we manufacture plastic injection moulding dies, plastic blow moulding dies and metal stamping tools. We also run a metal stamping press shop where 5 of our staff are employed. We have worked very hard to establish our markets. We have built up good customer relations by providing service and high quality tools & components by using well-trained people and modern world class equipment & software. The income we earn from these customers enables us to pay our draftsman, tradesmen, office staff & factory staff the sort of money that Australians must earn, which I am sure you understand is a lot more than people earn in China.

A representative from our company visited China approx 20 months ago to look for work opportunities. He has seen first hand that in a lot of cases Chinese work conditions are very primitive compared to Australia. They do not have the same government controls, environmental restrictions, intellectual property or patent controls that apply here, but they can buy the same modern machinery & engineering software that we use, and for less than it costs us. We would also be subject to high import duties into China. I'm sure you can see that it is already very difficult for Australian toolmakers to compete with the Chinese and this FTA will only make matters worse.

We are very concerned with this proposed FTA, and the fact that it is being rushed through for some reason. We feel that without a full study being completed, how can the long-term effects of this FTA be known. Toolmaking & component production are one of the first stages of value adding to raw materials. We know that our industry here in Australia is small by world standards, but we are viable, we employ and train many people. Providing major players like China with even easier access to our markets can only destabilise the industry.

We ask you to seriously consider this matter, and do what you can to stop this FTA.

Yours sincerely.

John Giebels  
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