

Dear Commissioners,

I want to take this opportunity to add my voice to the many distinguished people who have already written to you out of concern for dismissing restrictions on parallel importation.

For me it is simple:

Without a restriction on parallel importation, I doubt my writing career would be where it is today. I would not be published in thirty countries. I would not be making a living from writing. I would not have learnt my trade in my own country before having the chance to pursue success in the rest of the world.

Growing up in the suburbs of Sydney, all I wanted was to be a writer, and the local publishing industry was able to support young writers. With the restriction on parallel importation in place, these publishers were able to develop new writers without the pressure of the international market closing in. They were more able to take risks on authors like me, or Matthew Reilly, or Shaun Tan, or Sonya Hartnett, or Andy Griffiths – all of whom have gone on to achieve great success, not only in Australia, but overseas.

Most notably, an environment with restricted parallel importation gives beginning authors the chance to grow. I established myself in Australia first. I was able to experiment, even when my first books didn't sell particularly well – but my publishers were able to keep me on not for the book I had just written, but for the book I *might* write in years to come. It was that support from the industry that allowed me to write *The Book Thief*, which has achieved more than I could ever have hoped, both at home and abroad. It's important to point out, too, that this environment of growth and development is what equips authors for when it's their turn to expand into the rest of the world. When our books travel there and take us with them, we show up ready. We have served our apprenticeship at home. We have done the work – but only because we were able to do it in a country where publishers were able to function without the pressure of unrestricted parallel importation.

Many thanks and best wishes,  
Markus Zusak.