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**Subject:** Discussion Paper Regarding Charities  
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## Treasury Discussion Paper Regarding Charities

As a contributor to many charities, including some that are politically active, I am disturbed to learn that the Treasury is considering whether to restrict some of their actions.

There have been many cases where local and transnational corporation have disregarded the “externalities” relating to the environment and to the wellbeing of land-holders. The corporations have the lobbying power and the money to continue doing this, to the immediate and long-term disadvantage of the nation.

The environment and the small landholders have to depend on activist bodies such as the charities to balance the argument. And, by and large, these organisations have no resources other than the donations of individual citizens.

Their actions might look like interference in the eyes of parliamentarians and senior staff of the public services. But the lobbying of the corporations is also interference. The corporations can talk face to face, often over lunches that they pay for, and make grand promises about their projects. This inevitably biases their guests in their favour. The charities can do little more point to the downsides. To restrict them further would be a great disservice to the nation.

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