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Director  
Corporate Tax Policy Unit  
Treasury  
Langton Cres  
Parkes ACT 2600

Dear Director,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a response to the consultation on the proposed legislation relating to Franked Distributions and Capital Raising.

I object to the proposed legislation changes.

I believe the draft legislation is inequitable to Australian companies and shareholders and it could inadvertently impact situations of legitimate company operations.

The draft legislation fails to recognise the fundamental principle underlying the franking regime and the reason for its creation, the avoidance of double taxation on company earnings.

The Franked Distribution and Capital Raising draft legislation, if widely applied, will lead to the demise of the franking system.

It will stop Australian companies who issue new shares under a Dividend Reinvestment Plan (DRP) from paying franked dividends and significantly increase the cost of capital for all franked dividend paying Australian companies. It will also risk the stability and integrity of the Australian banking system by inhibiting effective capital raising during challenging economic periods such as the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

If passed, its application would also unfairly burden Australian investors with retrospective tax debts, to be paid at a time of economic uncertainty.

I am a self-funded retiree who voted for Jim Chalmers and the Labor party believing that their election pledge and commitment on franking credits would be honoured.

Using weasel words, like this is not the pledge Labor made or the economic circumstances have changed, will not cut it.

These proposed changes are unfair and break Labor commitments to Australians who voted for this current government and I will continue to rail against this unjust proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Brown