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Public Comments on Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch:
Limiting Gifts from Registered Lobbyists and Lobbying Organizations:=====

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Registered Lobbyists and Lobbying Organizations

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As a scholar and political researcher well read on the topic of government ethics and the enabling legislation, I have a few comments to make in regards to the amendment proposed by (OGE), The Office of Government Ethics, that limits the acceptance of gifts from lobbyists. There are a few seemingly obvious reasons why these proposed rules are a good idea. Politicians and political appointees are persons that constitute a part of the larger government, which plays an intricate role in the quality, stability, and longevity of the lives of Americans. With that being said people that hold political positions must be held to a higher ethical standard because their

actions have the capability of affecting the lives of many. It may appear that imposing a strict ban on the acceptance of gifts even for fulltime, non-career appointees as being extreme, but it is necessary to eliminate the possibility of corruption at all levels of government. There have been numerous examples of individuals, groups, parties, and lobbyists acting in their own self-interest. The scandals and shenanigans of Jack Abramoff and the political appointees involved with him are just one example mentioned within the proposal that touches on the corruption that can occur in government. It may be possible to enforce penalties against lobbyists and special interest groups from corrupting government but it would be costly and difficult to expose guilty parties. This proposed amendment uses the most logical approach to addressing the problem of corruption and acceptance of gifts (i.e., bribes). The politicians and political appointees must show restraint and the best way to insure that they are ethically sound is to require them to take a Pledge not to except gifts and face the punishments that follow the acceptance of improper benefits. It is imperative that employees of the executive branch be impartial because government is supposed to work in the best interest of the citizens of this country as a whole.