

WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR MP ABOUT THE LOBBYING BILL

What to do before you write your letter:

- Find out how your MP voted: <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/blogs/2013/11/gagging-law-mp-results-table>
- If your MP voted against the bill, thank him/her and encourage him/her to be present in the chamber when the bill will be next considered and make sure your MP will be available to vote if needed to defend changes won in the House of Lords.
- If your MP voted for the bill, ask him/her for reassurance that he/she will not overturn the changes made to the bill in the House of Lords.
- If your MP abstained from the vote due to concerns he/she might have with the bill, encourage him/her to be present in the chamber when the bill will be next considered to vote if needed to defend changes won in the House of Lords.

Ideas of what to include in your letter:

- Important and welcomed changes have been made to the bill in the House of Lords proposed by Ministers and Lord Harries of Pentregarth. The changes follow recommendations from the Commission of Civil Society and Democratic Engagement and are supported by 130 NGOs and 160,000 people.
- However, notwithstanding these changes, you are still concerned about Part 2 of the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill.
- In its current form, the bill still **threatens to stifle legitimate public debate** and non-party political campaigning on policies that affect people's lives.
- You are disappointed that the changes to the bill did not go far enough, especially regarding the extremely low constituency limits which according to the Electoral Commission might be even unenforceable, the difficulties facing organisations working in coalition, and regarding the outdated definition of an NGO supporter.
- Therefore you want to see your MP voting to accept all amendments to Part 2 of the bill made by the House of Lords – including amendments tabled by Lord Harries.

Ask your MP to:

- To defend changes won in the House of Lords by committing to not overturn those changes once the bill is back in the House of Commons.

Don't forget to let us know when you receive a reply from your MP.