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TINZ Media Release - Major figures back review of political finance laws.

Some of New Zealand's most senior retired constitutional office holders support a symposium organized by Transparency International New Zealand and the Institute of Policy Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. The Symposium will review the country's election spending and political party funding rules. The list of people endorsing the symposium is headed by former Governor General Dame Silvia Cartwright and includes retired senior figures from both major political parties, Rt. Hon. Mike Moore and Hon. Russell Marshall, Sir Douglas Graham and Hon. Doug Kidd as well as one of the country's senior retired judges, Rt. Hon. Edward Thomas.

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We the undersigned support the symposium on the Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns being run by Transparency International New Zealand and the Institute of Policy Studies.

It is essential for the well being of New Zealand's democracy that the rules governing electoral spending and the financing of political parties are accepted and respected by all citizens and that New Zealand has an electoral agency able to protect the integrity of our electoral process.

The symposium is an important step in ensuring transparency in our electoral system.

The Rt. Hon. Dame Silvia Cartwright – Former Governor General

The Rt. Hon. Mike Moore – Former Prime Minister and Director General of the World Trade Organisation

The Hon. Doug Kidd – Former Speaker of the House of Parliament

The Rt. Hon. Sir Douglas Graham – Former Minister of Justice and of Treaty Settlements

The Hon. Russell Marshall – Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Education

The Rt. Hon. Edward Thomas - Former Judge of the Court of Appeal and former Acting Judge of the Supreme Court.