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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:=====

Title: Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch: Limiting Gifts from  
Registered Lobbyists and Lobbying Organizations

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I have never attended a free seminar, nor have I been invited to one. But as the Senior Engineer for [REDACTED] I witness first hand how the lack of information on new technologies hinders our ability to do our jobs well. Instead we only ever review generic systems and cost data never to give an accurate description of what our engineers or quality specialists are actually witnessing. Our training budgets are practically non-existent with the sole exception of sending

people to the Defense Acquisition University (DAU). Unfortunately DAU only teaches government systems in regards to acquisitions, it does not teach any technology.

The government needs to use every resource at hand to stay current with the technology that is driving defense acquisitions. By enacting this rule, we simply remove one more activity that helps facilitate that knowledge. Contractors do care about our input. We are the ones judging their capability to perform, so it is in their interest that we are there. That is why they pay, not simply so favors can be granted.

Please find a way, to maintain this capability by putting some kind of ethics clearance in check. This would help ensure that the person going is someone who either needs information or can provide information and not someone who is about to make a decision on a contractual matter for whatever company is hosting the event.