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Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform,
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Proportional Representation

The world crisis we are facing today is probably even graver than the conditions leading up to WW2. Our greed-driven, arrogant life style has put our people at the mercy of short-sighted multinational corporations. Integrity and basic morals are rapidly disappearing, as are our natural resources. More and more people are being driven off the land to the cities and our basic agricultural self-sufficiency is being lost in cruel modern "agri-business". As people gradually realise the true state of the world, and the apparent inability of our governments at all levels to take the necessary steps to correct it, they tend first to give up, and not to bother to vote in elections.

When the disaster finally strikes, they come together (if it is not already too late) under a united leadership. This mutual cooperation (and with it true morale) was exemplified in the British coalition Churchill government during WW2. All three political parties had members in key cabinet positions, and the views of the whole nation were better represented than ever before (or since!).

Today we are desperately short of "coalition"-style governments (and cabinets); the far-sighted leadership that puts the *real* needs of the people as their *raison d'être*.

I strongly favour the MMP system of proportional representation as practiced in New Zealand and Germany. Such an elected legislature should have basic rules of procedure including:

1. All decisions should be decided by *FREE VOTE*; MLAs should always consider their constituency wishes as more important than loyalty to any political party.
2. The legislature should put natural sustainability ahead of financial gain, growth or "progress".
3. The Speaker must at all times enforce strict control of MLAs' behavior and manners.
4. Local or village, communities should be encouraged to manage their local affairs with the minimum bureaucratic rules and regulations imposed by municipal or provincial governments. Such local management, controlled largely by volunteers, could save a great deal of money.

With best wishes for your success in finding the right solution.

Yours sincerely, Sedley Sweeny