From: Kelly Conover
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209-AA50)
Date: Friday, June 17, 2022 10:07:56 AM

Dear Office of Government Ethics,

I am citizen and regular voter. I have also spent time abroad, and I am appalled that you are not holding US officials to higher ethics standards!

I oppose OGE's proposed legal expense fund regulation as drafted. OGE should:

- remove the exception that makes compliance with the regulation optional;

- replace the proposed recusal requirement with a broader 5-year recusal requirement that prevents donors of cash gifts from influencing decisions, policies, or regulations affecting them or the industries in which they have substantial interests;

- remove the offensive example involving an accused sexual harasser; and

- place nonprofit charities (501(c)(3) organizations) on an equal footing with large law firms by allowing them to hire legal counsel for whistleblowers.

It's sad that we cannot simply count on people to do the right thing, but here we are.

Thank you!
Kelly Zavandro