From: Ashley Smith
To: USOGE
Subject: Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209-AA50)
Date: Monday, June 20, 2022 2:56:52 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to comment on the proposed Rule and to strongly urge you to amend it as follows below. Our democracy is fragile and hanging on by threads to easy to sever. It is imperative that the rules regulating political donations be drafted to the highest standards of ethics to aid in preserving the trust of the American people in our political institutions.

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.

Sincerely,

Ashley Smith, citizen