From: Merrill Stanley
To: USOGE
Subject: Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209-AA50)
Date: Monday, June 20, 2022 3:13:47 PM

I oppose OGE's proposed legal expense fund regulation as drafted. OGE should: - remove the exception that makes compliance with the regulation optional. For God's sake, how is an "optional" regulation even a regulation at all? Are you attempting to invite corruption, or what?
- 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.

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