**From:** Barbara Garbacz
**To:** Contact OGE
**Subject:** Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209–AA50)
**Date:** Thursday, June 16, 2022 3:13:13 PM

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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.

*Say no to optional government ethics*. If we're ever going to root out corruption and hold those in power accountable for unethical practices, it won't happen by giving them the ability to opt out.

Barbara Garbacz