From: Ellen Chaffee
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209–AA50)
Date: Friday, June 17, 2022 1:25:24 PM

I worked hard with a handful of friends to propose and pass an initiated measure to amend the state constitution (XIV) and establish an Ethics Commission for the state of North Dakota. The legislature had refused to do so four sessions in a row. The new commission is struggling against corrupt, powerful forces. YOU are setting the worst possible example for them. What you're doing is not ... well, ethical.

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.

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