From: Doris Gasteiro
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209–AA50)
Date: Thursday, June 16, 2022 1:47:10 PM

I oppose “optional" government ethics. If it’s optional, you know the “rules” aren’t going to be followed. We need to get corruption out of our government! and that won’t happen if the people who are corrupt can choose not to obey the guidelines that the Office of Government Ethics has proposed. Put some teeth into this!

Those in power MUST be held accountable for unethical practices. You know it isn’t going to happen if they can choose to opt out. Our form of government **must** have ethical standards and abide by them or we will end up with an oligarchy or a dictatorship.

Therefore I oppose the Office of Government Ethics’ proposed legal expense fund regulation as drafted. The OGE should use common sense and

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; (don’t intimidate the victims.)

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

Let’s get our government back to something we can respect.

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