

From: Mary Harris [<mailto:mharris@nari.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 1:33 PM
To: USOGE
Subject: Proposed Amendments to Part 2635

On behalf of the Board of Directors, 60 chapters and 7,000 company members of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI), we are strongly opposed to the proposed rule that would not allow government employees to attend programs and events held by our organization because it is a trade association.

The remodeling industry is highly regulated by a number of Federal agencies. Most recently, our members have been subjected to costly and burdensome work practice changes by the EPA. Yes, NARI and its chapters frequently invite EPA and OSHA officials to meetings, programs and events. How can we understand, inform and educate each other if we do not?

The White House and the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) should be more concerned about business growth, job creation, professional development, innovation and collaborative problem-solving, and should not be concerned about organizations which lobby cultivating access to government employees.

The proposed rule does not hurt trade associations as much as it hurts the individual businesses that they represent and the government employees who are seeking education and dialogue with the industries they regulate.

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