From: Natalie Howell
To: USOGE
Subject: Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209-AA50)
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 10:15:43 AM

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.

The US Government owes it to all Americans to have the highest ethical standards, and the proposed changes are a far cry from that. We have seen in the past four years how the normalization of corrupt practices has impacted all areas of government and society. New, strict, required, enforceable rules will go a long way to returning some semblance of trust in our elected officials and overall government.

Thank you,
Natalie Howell
Kearney, MO