From: Wendell Thomas
To: USOGE
Subject: Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209-AA50)
Date: Monday, June 20, 2022 9:49:44 PM

I oppose OGE's proposed legal expense fund regulation as drafted. The only sensible way to insure that we have honest, ethical public officials is to have ethics rules and regulations that are mandatory, not optional. The future of our democracy may depends on your decision.

Specifically, 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.