From: Ben Faber
To: USOGE
Subject: Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209-AA50)
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 9:58:12 PM

I oppose OGE's proposed legal expense fund regulation as drafted. In this draft rule, OGE has mapped out a clear boundary against corruption and ethical violations (good job), and then stamped a for sale sign over the map by making the regulation optional. This is offensive and a failure to satisfy the statutory purpose of the agency. 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,

and then implement the revised rule or resubmit the revised rule for further review as appropriate.

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