

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [USOGE](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RIN 3209-AA04 - Standards of Ethical Conduct  
**Date:** Monday, October 31, 2011 8:21:25 AM

Regarding: Proposed rule that would prohibit most federal employees from accepting free admission to conferences held by businesses or organizations that lobby government...

I wholeheartedly support this legislation. The arguments being put forth in opposition to the rule are straw men. Those government employees who need to interact with people to learn about trends and problems in the country have other, less compromising ways to do that. I also am skeptical that banning this activity will have as large an impact on the hotel business as the Industry claims. Similarly, if the industry relies so heavily on lobbyists paying government employees to come to events related to the lobbyists' efforts to sway government policy, then something is every wrong with that picture.

In these times of increasing ethical ambiguity, demonstrated distrust in government, and rampant abuse of power by government, business and industry, this prohibition will at least provide a standard of behavior that says government employees whose salaries/wages are being paid by the average, struggling tax payer will not accept gifts that clearly are meant to compromise their decision making in favor of the lobbyist who may or may not have the average citizen's best interest in mind.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule. I speak only for myself; I do not represent my organization in this commentary.

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