



Mr. Don Fox
Acting Director & General Counsel
Office of Government Ethics
1201 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005-3917

Dear Mr. Fox,

On behalf of the Oklahoma Association of REALTORS®, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on proposed amendments to part 2635 that would prohibit federal employees from attending some association trade shows.

This proposed amendment is inconsistent with the concept of public-private partnership that has been encouraged by the federal government for many years.

Our non-profit association has been relied on for years to provide opportunities for our private sector members to interact with many housing-related entities, both state and federal. This interaction, which is both educational and informative for our members as well as for our government colleagues, is part of our state association's mission, goals and objectives. It would be a huge loss to deny that interaction under this proposed amendment.

The fundamental purpose of membership organizations is to strive to improve the professionalism of their members, particularly those whose job it is to serve the public. It concerns us that this proposal shows a clear misunderstanding and mistrust of the purpose of trade and membership associations, and is counterproductive to the immense amount of public service provided by professional associations.

We strongly encourage you to reconsider this amendment and the negative impact it would have on a large percentage of the professional and government workers of our country.

Sincerely,

Lisa G. Noon, CAE, RCE
Chief Executive Officer