

From: [Marett, Jennifer](#)
To: [USOGE](#)
Cc: [Leonard, Rachael](#); [Lee, Jennifer](#)
Subject: Proposed Amendments to Subpart B
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 7:26:28 PM

Dear OGE,

Please find below several comments from OSTP regarding OGE's Proposed Amendments to Subpart B:

Example 7 to paragraph (g) is current *Example 6* following § 2635.204(g) modified to reflect that all widely attended gathering authorizations must be in writing.

- The Agency recommends adding a similar modification to Example 4 to Paragraph G.

OGE further proposes to add a new § 2635.204(h)(3) to require an employee to receive a written determination that the employee's attendance at the event complies with the proposed standard set out at § 2635.201(b) when either the sponsor of the event or the person extending the invitation is not an individual. If the event is being hosted by an organization or the invitation is from an organization, as opposed to an individual, OGE believes that it is appropriate to require an independent written determination by an agency ethics official confirming that the employee's acceptance of free meals, refreshments, and entertainment would not cause a reasonable person to question the employee's integrity under the standard found in proposed § 2635.201(b).

- The Agency does not understand the purpose of adding a requirement for written authorization for employees to accept social invitations if the event is hosted by (or the invitation came from) an organization as opposed to an individual. The Agency views this requirement as unnecessary and notes that it may substantially increase the volume of ethics reviews required by agency ethics teams.

Best regards,

Jennifer N. Marett
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From: News and Info for Ethics Officials [mailto:oge-ethicsinfo@LISTSERV.GSA.GOV] **On Behalf Of**
Ethics Mailinglist

Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 8:47 AM

To: OGE-ETHICSINFO@LISTSERV.GSA.GOV

Subject: OGE Issues Proposed Rule Revising Subpart B of the Standards of Ethical Conduct, "Gifts from Outside Sources"

OGE Issues Proposed Rule Revising Subpart B of the Standards of Ethical Conduct, "Gifts from Outside Sources"

On Friday, November 27, 2015, the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) published a rule proposing to revise the provisions of the Standards of Ethical Conduct that govern the solicitation and acceptance of gifts from outside sources found at 5 C.F.R. 2635 Subpart B. This rule was published in the *Federal Register* at 80 Fed. Reg. 74004-74018.

The proposed amendments would modify the existing regulations to more effectively advance public confidence in the integrity of federal officials. Additionally, the amendments would incorporate past interpretive guidance, add and update regulatory examples, improve clarity, update citations and make technical corrections.

The public will until January 26, 2016, to provide written comments on the proposed rule. Comments may be submitted by e-mail to usoge@oge.gov. Please include the reference "Proposed Amendments to Subpart B" in the subject line of the message.

You may access the *Federal Register* issuance by clicking here:
><http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-27/pdf/2015-29208.pdf><

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