



United States  
**Office of Government Ethics**  
1201 New York Avenue, NW., Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20005-3917

JAN 17 2014

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress  
13873 Park Center Road, Suite 130  
Herndon, Virginia 20171

Dear Representative Wolf:

This responds to your letter of November 4, 2013, regarding efforts by the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) to implement an electronic financial disclosure filing system as required by the STOCK Act. Your inquiry includes questions regarding "required deadlines" imposed on agencies, to what extent the system is mandatory, and whether there is a potential for duplication with existing systems.

OGE appreciates the opportunity to provide you with information regarding the system that OGE is developing. OGE is statutorily required to develop this system under the STOCK Act, which obviates the question of duplication. While the STOCK Act requires OGE to develop an electronic filing system, it does not include a general requirement for other executive branch agencies to adopt electronic filing by a particular date. Executive branch agencies other than OGE are currently not required to take specific actions to implement the STOCK Act's electronic filing mandate. As noted in OGE's prior responses, OGE has advised federal agencies that are using or planning to use other electronic filing systems for public financial disclosure reports (OGE Form 278) that they do not need to discontinue such use or planning at this time. I note that your letter focuses on confidential financial disclosure reports (OGE Form 450); however, the system now under development at OGE is for public financial disclosure reports (OGE Form 278).

I trust that this response addresses the issues raised in your letter and its accompanying attachments. If you require additional information regarding this matter, please contact OGE's Program Counsel, Shelley K. Finlayson, at (202) 482-9314.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter M. Shaub, Jr.", written over a white background.

Walter M. Shaub, Jr.  
Director