



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

NOV 19 2013

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

Dear Representative Wolf:

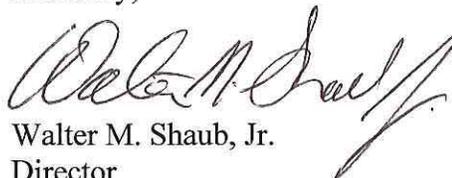
This responds to your request that I address concerns raised by one of your constituents, Mr. Adam Davidson of HRworx. Mr. Davidson's concerns relate to the requirement that the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) develop an electronic filing (e-filing) system for public financial disclosure pursuant to the STOCK Act of 2012. Specifically, Mr. Davidson's inquiry appears to be whether OGE has authority to require executive branch agencies to use this e-filing system.

The short answer is that OGE does have such authority. OGE provides overall direction, oversight and accountability of executive branch policies designed to prevent and resolve conflicts of interest. The Ethics in Government Act of 1978, which established OGE, specifically requires that OGE establish procedures for the filing, review, and public availability of public financial disclosure reports. 5 U.S.C. app. § 402(b)(1). With regard to e-filing, this authority is reinforced by subsection 11(b)(1)(A) of the STOCK Act, which requires that OGE, and not individual executive branch agencies, develop an e-filing system for use by executive branch public filers.

Nevertheless, while OGE has the authority to require agencies to use this e-filing system, OGE is not taking action to impose such a requirement at this time. Once the e-filing system under development is ready, OGE will work with executive branch agencies to establish appropriate procedures for electronic filing of public financial disclosure reports. In the meantime, federal executive branch agencies are under no requirement to use any particular e-filing system or to use e-filing at all. The STOCK Act does not require individual executive branch agencies to begin using e-filing systems by January 1, 2014. Rather, the STOCK Act's mandate in section 11(b)(1)(A) requires only that OGE develop an e-filing system.

If you require additional information regarding this matter, please contact OGE's Program Counsel, Shelley K. Finlayson, at (202) 482-9314.

Sincerely,



Walter M. Shaub, Jr.  
Director