From: Frances Alet
To: USOGE
Subject: Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209-AA50)
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I can't believe I need to submit a comment about this topic. OGE proposes that ethics be optional for our government? Seriously? If this was the previous administration, I wouldn't be surprised by this. However, I expect better from this administration -- and all departments that fall under it. Frankly, I'm shocked that this is even being proposed. Every person -- politician or civil servant -- that works as part of our government should be held to standards of ethics. No one should be able to "opt out" of it.

I strongly oppose the OGE's proposed legal expense fund regulation as drafted. OGE should:
1) Remove the exception that makes compliance with the regulation optional;
2) Replace the proposed recusal requirement with a broader 5-year recusal requirement that prevents donors of cash gifts from influencing decisions, policies, or regulations affecting them or the industries in which they have substantial interests;
3) Remove the offensive example involving an accused sexual harasser;
4) Place nonprofit charities (501(c)(3) organizations) on an equal footing with large law firms by allowing them to hire legal counsel for whistleblowers.