

The National Board for Certified Counselors opposes the proposed rule prohibiting career Federal employees' free attendance at trade association educational and professional development events, seminars and trade shows. The proposed rule unnecessarily restricts information-sharing between content experts and federal policymakers. Applying such restrictions to trade associations because of the flawed perception that they do not serve an educational role is short-sighted and risks harm to the public that you are seeking to protect. Trade associations play an important role in educating policy-makers about their industry, which increases the opportunity for the development of good public policy.

The OGE needs to modify the proposed regulations to allow Federal employees free attendance at professional development events sponsored by trade associations. Thank you for your consideration.

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