From: Lincoln Paine
To: USOGE
Subject: Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209-AA50)
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 9:48:30 AM

To whom it may concern:

I oppose in the strongest possible terms the OGE's proposed legal expense fund regulation as drafted. OGE should:

- remove the exception that makes compliance with the regulation optional; "optional ethics compliance" is an absurdity;
- 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;
- remove the offensive example involving an accused sexual harasser; and
- place nonprofit charities (501(c)(3) organizations) on an equal footing with large law firms by allowing them to hire legal counsel for whistleblowers.

Making ethics compliance optional puts the United States of America on a fast track to banana republicanism.

Don't do it.

Sincerely,

Lincoln Paine
159 Eastern Promenade
Portland, ME 04101 USA
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Lincoln Lincoln.Paine@gmail.com LincolnPaine.com Sent from an iThing