From: Tony Alonso
To: Contact OGE
Subject: Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209-AA50)
Date: Friday, June 17, 2022 12:19:03 AM

I oppose the Office of Government Ethics' (OGE) proposed legal expense fund regulation as drafted. Foreign governments and regulated industries should not be able to provide unlimited legal support to officials while non-profits are prohibited from providing legal support to whistleblowers.
Furthermore, OGE must restore the practice requiring an official to set up a trust with the official as the trust's sole beneficiary without option or recusal for a period of no less than 5 years.

The Office of Government Ethics should:
• remove the exception that makes compliance with the regulation optional;
• 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Alonso
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