From: Mary A. Griffin
To: Contact OGE
Subject: "Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209–AA50)"
Date: Friday, June 17, 2022 9:35:07 AM

I say no to OPTIONAL government ethics. If we're ever going to root out corruption and hold those in power accountable for unethical practices, it won't happen by giving them the ability to opt out.
I oppose OGE's legal expense fund regulation as drafted. OGE 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.

Do not allow government ethics to be optional! Do not let this scheme as written to stand. It will further decay American citizens' trust in government! And further damage our democracy!

Sincerely,
Mary Griffin