From: Donald Singer
To: USOGE
Subject: Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209-AA50)
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 5:06:13 PM

I oppose OGE's proposed legal expense fund regulation as drafted. OGE should, nay must:

- remove the exception that makes compliance with the regulation optional; This exception is ludicrous! It is a mockery of the concept of ethics that defeats the very purpose of the Rule (or more accurately, with this exception, "Rule").
- 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; Otherwise, this amounts to "nudge, nudge, wink wink, be just a bit patient and you'll be rewarded."
- 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 very much.