

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS



June 13, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Kennedy  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Financial Services  
and General Government  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
416 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Coons  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Financial Services  
and General Government  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Leahy, Subcommittee Chairman Kennedy, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Coons:

The U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) writes to request authorization<sup>1</sup> to use \$50,000 of its fiscal year 2018 unobligated balance<sup>2</sup> for expenditures in fiscal year 2019, to enhance *Integrity*, OGE's secure web-based public financial disclosure filing system.

OGE provides overall leadership and oversight of the executive branch ethics program designed to prevent and resolve conflicts of interest. One of the most visible parts of OGE's mission is to oversee a public financial disclosure system that reaches more than 26,000 of the most senior leaders in the executive branch, including Presidentially-appointed, Senate-confirmed officials. Since January 2015, these senior leaders have successfully used *Integrity*, OGE's web-based financial disclosure application, to file all of their financial disclosure and transaction reports. Since *Integrity* was developed based on a congressional mandate contained in the STOCK Act,<sup>3</sup> the system and OGE's support and expertise with the system have remained in high demand. Demand will be further heightened after the Department of Defense transitions all of its more than 3,000 filers into *Integrity* beginning in 2020.

<sup>1</sup> OGE requests this authorization pursuant to Pub. L. No. 115-141, § 609, 132 Stat. 583 (2018). OGE only has one budget account, so its request to use 50% of OGE's unobligated balance of fiscal year 2018 appropriations in fiscal year 2019 will not cross budget accounts.

<sup>2</sup> The unobligated balance of OGE's fiscal year 2018 Salaries and Expense appropriation, as of May 30, 2019, was \$100,191, half of which is \$50,095. OGE is requesting authorization to use \$50,000 of the available carryover balance.

<sup>3</sup> See Representative Louise McIntosh Slaughter Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act, Pub. L. No. 112-105, § 11(b), 126 Stat. 299-300 (2012).



In order to respond to the needs and priorities of agencies with a high proportion of their filers in the system, OGE launched the *Integrity* Advisory Council (IAC) in 2018. Based on new priorities identified through consultation with the IAC, OGE is requesting approval to use \$50,000 of the available unobligated balance of fiscal year 2018 appropriations in fiscal year 2019 to support the development of two new system improvements to *Integrity* as described in the table below.

<b><i>Integrity</i></b>		
<b>Executive Branchwide Electronic Public Financial Disclosure Filing System</b>		
IMPROVEMENT	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST (rounded)
Import data from a spreadsheet into transaction (278-T) reports	Increases efficiency by enabling filers to directly import data from a spreadsheet into their transaction (278-T) report, saving time and reducing errors.	\$37,000
Add a "Bulk Action" feature	Reduces input time by allowing a user to aggregate several or all entries in a part of the report and to delete or move all entries simultaneously, instead of individually.	\$13,000
TOTAL:		\$50,000

OGE appreciates your favorable consideration of this request for authorization to use \$50,000 of its fiscal year 2018 unobligated balance for expenditures to improve *Integrity*. If you or your staff needs additional information or have any questions about this request, please contact Diana Veilleux, Chief, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch at (202) 482-9203. An identical request is being sent to the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government.

Sincerely,



Shelley K. Finlayson  
Chief of Staff and Program Counsel