

# Executive Branch Personnel

## Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e)

### Filer's Information

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Kessler, Rick

Senior Advisor for Implementation, OLEM, Environmental Protection Agency

Report Year: 2024

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Other Federal Government Positions Held During the Preceding 12 Months:

Senior Advisor, House Energy and Commerce Committee, US House of Representatives (1/2015 - 2/2023)

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Electronic Signature - I certify that the statements I have made in this form are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ Kessler, Rick [electronically signed on 07/01/2024 by Kessler, Rick in Integrity.gov] - Filer received a 45 day filing extension.

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Agency Ethics Official's Opinion - On the basis of information contained in this report, I conclude that the filer is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations (subject to any comments below).

/s/ Mosley, Ferne L, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 08/05/2024 by Mosley, Ferne L in Integrity.gov]

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Other review conducted by

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U.S. Office of Government Ethics Certification

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Data Revised 08/05/2024

Data Revised 08/02/2024

Data Revised 08/01/2024

Data Revised 07/31/2024

Data Revised 07/30/2024

Data Revised 07/29/2024

Data Revised 07/16/2024

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## 1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

None

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## 2. Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	Cooley LLP Salary Deferral and Profit Sharing Plan	No			
1.1	Schwab Target 2030 Index Fund (SWYEX)	Yes	\$250,001 - \$500,000		None (or less than \$201)
2	Levick Strategic Communications 401(k) Plan	No			
2.1	JPMorgan SmartRetirement 2030 Fund Class A Shares (JSMAX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3	American Association of Universities	See Endnote		Consulting Fees for March 2023 AAU Government Affairs structure assessment.	\$5,000

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## 3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

None

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## 4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

## 5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	Mighty Earth, Inc. (501(c)(3) nonprofit environmental organization)	N/A		salary	
2	Mighty Earth, 401(k) plan	No			
2.1	Fidelity Freedom Index 2025 Fund Premier Class (FLIPX)	Yes	\$250,001 - \$500,000		None (or less than \$201)

## 6. Other Assets and Income

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	Fidelity IRA #1	No			
1.1	Buffalo Discovery Fund Investor Class Shares (BUFTX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.2	First Eagle Overseas Fund Class A Shares (SGOVX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.3	JPMorgan Mid Cap Value Fund Class I Shares (JMVSX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.4	Catalyst/Warrington Strategic Program Fund Class A Shares (CWXAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.5	Catalyst/Millburn Hedge Strategy Fund Class A Shares (MBXAX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.6	1919 Financial Services Fund Class A Shares (SBFAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1.7	CRM Small Cap Value Fund Investor Shares (CRMSX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.8	Fidelity Government Cash Reserves (FDRXX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.9	Fidelity High Income Fund (SPHIX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.10	DoubleLine Total Return Bond Fund Class N Shares (DLTNX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.11	Lord Abbett Floating Rate Fund Class A Shares (LFRAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.12	SPDR S&P 500 ETF Trust (SPY)	Yes	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.13	Industrial Select Sector SPDR Fund (XLI)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.14	VanEck Vectors Gold Miners ETF (GDX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
2	US Domestic Bank (cash account)				
2.1	U.S. domestic Checking Account	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.2	U.S. domestic bank Savings Account	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3	Traditional IRA	No			
3.1	AB Government Money Market Portfolio Advisor Class Shares (AEYXX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.2	Brokerage Money Market	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.3	Invesco NASDAQ 100 ETF Invesco NASDAQ 100 ETF (QQQM)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
3.4	ISHARES TR CORE US AGGBD ET (AGG)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.5	iShares Global Energy ETF (IXC)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.6	iShares Broad USD Investment Grade Corporate Bond ETF (USIG)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.7	SPDR S&P International Small Cap ETF (GWX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.8	SPDR Portfolio High Yield Bond ETF (SPHY)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.9	SPDR Portfolio S&P 500 ETF (SPLG)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.10	TIAA-CREF Small-Cap Blend Index Fund Institutional Class Shares (TISBX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.11	TIAA-CREF International Equity Index Fund Institutional Class Shares (TCIEX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.12	Vanguard Growth Index Fund Admiral Class Shares (VIGAX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.13	Vanguard Emerging Markets Stock Index Fund ETF Shares (VWO)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.14	Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund Admiral Shares (VIMAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.15	Vanguard Real Estate Index Fund Admiral Shares (VGSLX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.16	Vanguard Materials Index Fund Admiral Shares (VMIAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.17	Vanguard Short-Term Corporate Bond Index Fund Admiral Class Shares (VSCSX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
3.18	Vanguard Total International Bond Index Fund ETF Shares (BNDX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.19	Vanguard Value Index Fund Admiral Shares (VVIAX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)

## 7. Transactions

#	DESCRIPTION		TYPE	DATE	AMOUNT
1	Fidelity IRA #2 Rollover to Traditional IRA	See Endnote	Exchange	09/12/2023	\$100,001 - \$250,000
2	Fidelity Government Cash Reserves (FDRXX)	See Endnote	Sale	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
3	Buffalo Discovery Fund Investor Class Shares (BUFTX)	See Endnote	Sale	09/12/2023	\$15,001 - \$50,000
4	First Eagle Overseas Fund Class A Shares (SGOVX)	See Endnote	Sale	09/12/2023	\$15,001 - \$50,000
5	JPMorgan Mid Cap Value Fund Class I Shares (JMVSX)	See Endnote	Sale	09/12/2023	\$15,001 - \$50,000
6	Catalyst/Warrington Strategic Program Fund Class A Shares (CWXAX)	See Endnote	Sale	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
7	Catalyst/Millburn Hedge Strategy Fund Class A Shares (MBXAX)	See Endnote	Sale	09/12/2023	\$15,001 - \$50,000
8	1919 Financial Services Fund Class A Shares (SBFAX)	See Endnote	Sale	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
9	CRM Small Cap Value Fund Investor Shares (CRMSX)	See Endnote	Sale	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
10	Fidelity High Income Fund (SPHIX)	See Endnote	Sale	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
11	DoubleLine Total Return Bond Fund Class N Shares (DLTNX)	See Endnote	Sale	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000

#	DESCRIPTION		TYPE	DATE	AMOUNT
12	Lord Abbett Floating Rate Fund Class A Shares (LFRAX)	See Endnote	Sale	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
13	SPDR S&P 500 ETF Trust (SPY)	See Endnote	Sale	09/12/2023	\$15,001 - \$50,000
14	Industrial Select Sector SPDR Fund (XLI)	See Endnote	Sale	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
15	VanEck Vectors Gold Miners ETF (GDX)	See Endnote	Sale	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
16	AB Government Money Market Portfolio Advisor Class Shares (AEYXX)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
17	Brokerage Money Market	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$15,001 - \$50,000
18	Invesco NASDAQ 100 ETF Invesco NASDAQ 100 ETF (QQQM)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
19	ISHARES TR CORE US AGGBD ET (AGG)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$15,001 - \$50,000
20	iShares Global Energy ETF (IXC)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
21	iShares Broad USD Investment Grade Corporate Bond ETF (USIG)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
22	SPDR S&P International Small Cap ETF (GWX)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
23	SPDR Portfolio High Yield Bond ETF (SPHY)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
24	SPDR Portfolio S&P 500 ETF (SPLG)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
25	TIAA-CREF Small-Cap Blend Index Fund Institutional Class Shares (TISBX)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
26	TIAA-CREF International Equity Index Fund Institutional Class Shares (TCIEX)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$15,001 - \$50,000
27	Vanguard Growth Index Fund Admiral Class Shares (VIGAX)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$15,001 - \$50,000



#	DESCRIPTION		TYPE	DATE	AMOUNT
28	Vanguard Emerging Markets Stock Index Fund ETF Shares (VWO)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
29	Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund Admiral Shares (VIMAX)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
30	Vanguard Real Estate Index Fund Admiral Shares (VGS LX)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
31	Vanguard Materials Index Fund Admiral Shares (VMIAX)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
32	Vanguard Short-Term Corporate Bond Index Fund Admiral Class Shares (VSCSX)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
33	Vanguard Total International Bond Index Fund ETF Shares (BNDX)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$1,001 - \$15,000
34	Vanguard Value Index Fund Admiral Shares (VVIAX)	See Endnote	Purchase	09/12/2023	\$15,001 - \$50,000

## 8. Liabilities

None

## 9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

None

## Endnotes

PART	#	ENDNOTE
2.	3	March 2023 consulting contract entered into and performed prior to EPA appointment. I was one of three retired former university government affairs/government staff on a panel to assess the association's current structure and focus and issue a joint report with recommendations to the association president.
7.	1	Rolled over traditional IRA from Fidelity to Cetera Advisors
7.	2	Rollover of IRA
7.	3	Rollover of IRA
7.	4	Rollover of IRA
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7.	16	Rollover of IRA
7.	17	Rollover of IRA
7.	18	Rollover of IRA
7.	19	Rollover of IRA
7.	20	Rollover of IRA

PART	#	ENDNOTE
7.	21	Rollover of IRA
7.	22	Rollover of IRA
7.	23	Rollover of IRA
7.	24	Rollover of IRA
7.	25	Rollover of IRA
7.	26	Rollover of IRA
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7.	31	Rollover of IRA
7.	32	Rollover of IRA
7.	33	Rollover of IRA
7.	34	Rollover of IRA

# Summary of Contents

## 1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

Part 1 discloses positions that the filer held at any time during the reporting period (excluding positions with the United States Government). Positions are reportable even if the filer did not receive compensation.

This section does not include the following: (1) positions with religious, social, fraternal, or political organizations; (2) positions solely of an honorary nature; (3) positions held as part of the filer's official duties with the United States Government; (4) mere membership in an organization; and (5) passive investment interests as a limited partner or non-managing member of a limited liability company.

## 2. Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 2 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned and other non-investment income of the filer totaling more than \$200 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, fees, partnership share, honoraria, scholarships, and prizes)
- Assets related to the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

## 3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

Part 3 discloses agreements or arrangements that the filer had during the reporting period with an employer or former employer (except the United States Government), such as the following:

- Future employment
- Leave of absence
- Continuing payments from an employer, including severance and payments not yet received for previous work (excluding ordinary salary from a current employer)
- Continuing participation in an employee welfare, retirement, or other benefit plan, such as pensions or a deferred compensation plan
- Retention or disposition of employer-awarded equity, sharing in profits or carried interests (e.g., vested and unvested stock options, restricted stock, future share of a company's profits, etc.)

#### 4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

Part 4 discloses sources (except the United States Government) that paid more than \$5,000 in a calendar year for the filer's services during any year of the reporting period.

The filer discloses payments both from employers and from any clients to whom the filer personally provided services. The filer discloses a source even if the source made its payment to the filer's employer and not to the filer. The filer does not disclose a client's payment to the filer's employer if the filer did not provide the services for which the client is paying.

#### 5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 5 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned income (excluding honoraria) for the filer's spouse totaling more than \$1,000 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, consulting fees, and partnership share)
- Sources of honoraria for the filer's spouse greater than \$200 during the reporting period
- Assets related to the filer's spouse's employment, business activities, other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's spouse's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF). Amounts of income are not required for a spouse's earned income (excluding honoraria).

#### 6. Other Assets and Income

Part 6 discloses each asset, not already reported, (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in investment income was received during the reporting period. For purposes of the value and income thresholds, the filer aggregates the filer's interests with those of the filer's spouse and dependent children.

This section does not include the following types of assets: (1) a personal residence (unless it was rented out during the reporting period); (2) income or retirement benefits associated with United States Government employment (e.g., Thrift Savings Plan); and (3) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, money market accounts) at a single financial institution with a value of \$5,000 or less (unless more than \$200 in income was received). Additional exceptions apply. Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

## 7. Transactions

Part 7 discloses purchases, sales, or exchanges of real property or securities in excess of \$1,000 made on behalf of the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child during the reporting period.

This section does not include transactions that concern the following: (1) a personal residence, unless rented out; (2) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, CDs, money market accounts) and money market mutual funds; (3) Treasury bills, bonds, and notes; and (4) holdings within a federal Thrift Savings Plan account. Additional exceptions apply.

## 8. Liabilities

Part 8 discloses liabilities over \$10,000 that the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child owed at any time during the reporting period.

This section does not include the following types of liabilities: (1) mortgages on a personal residence, unless rented out (limitations apply for PAS filers); (2) loans secured by a personal motor vehicle, household furniture, or appliances, unless the loan exceeds the item's purchase price; and (3) revolving charge accounts, such as credit card balances, if the outstanding liability did not exceed \$10,000 at the end of the reporting period. Additional exceptions apply.

## 9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

This section discloses:

- Gifts totaling more than \$480 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.
- Travel reimbursements totaling more than \$480 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.

For purposes of this section, the filer need not aggregate any gift or travel reimbursement with a value of \$192 or less. Regardless of the value, this section does not include the following items: (1) anything received from relatives; (2) anything received from the United States Government or from the District of Columbia, state, or local governments; (3) bequests and other forms of inheritance; (4) gifts and travel reimbursements given to the filer's agency in connection with the filer's official travel; (5) gifts of hospitality (food, lodging, entertainment) at the donor's residence or personal premises; and (6) anything received by the filer's spouse or dependent children totally independent of their relationship to the filer. Additional exceptions apply.

## Privacy Act Statement

Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended (the Act), 5 U.S.C. § 13101 et seq., as amended by the Representative Louise McIntosh Slaughter Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-105) (STOCK Act), and 5 C.F.R. Part 2634 of the U. S. Office of Government Ethics regulations require the reporting of this information. Failure to provide the requested information may result in separation, disciplinary action, or civil action. The primary use of the information on this report is for review by Government officials to determine compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations. This report may also be disclosed upon request to any requesting person in accordance with sections 105 and 402(b)(1) of the Act or as otherwise authorized by law. You may inspect applications for public access of your own form upon request. Additional disclosures of the information on this report may be made: (1) to any requesting person, subject to the limitation contained in section 208(d)(1) of title 18, any determination granting an exemption pursuant to sections 208(b)(1) and 208(b)(3) of title 18; (2) to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency if the disclosing agency becomes aware of violations or potential violations of law or regulation; (3) to a source when necessary to obtain information relevant to a conflict of interest investigation or determination; (4) to the National Archives and Records Administration or the General Services Administration in records management inspections; (5) to the Office of Management and Budget during legislative coordination on private relief legislation; (6) when the disclosing agency determines that the records are arguably relevant to a proceeding before a court, grand jury, or administrative or adjudicative body, or in a proceeding before an administrative or adjudicative body when the adjudicator determines the records to be relevant to the proceeding; (7) to reviewing officials in a new office, department or agency when an employee transfers or is detailed from one covered position to another, a public financial disclosure report and any accompanying documents, including statements notifying an employee's supervising ethics office of the commencement of negotiations for future employment or compensation or of an agreement for future employment or compensation; (8) to a Member of Congress or a congressional office in response to an inquiry made on behalf of and at the request of an individual who is the subject of the record; (9) to contractors and other non-Government employees working on a contract, service or assignment for the Federal Government when necessary to accomplish a function related to this system of records; (10) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any written ethics agreement, including certifications of ethics agreement compliance, filed with OGE by an individual nominated by the President to a position requiring Senate confirmation; (11) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any certificate of divestiture issued by OGE; (12) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any waiver of the restrictions contained in Executive Order 13989 or any superseding executive order; (13) to appropriate agencies, entities and persons when there has been a suspected or confirmed breach of the system of records, the agency maintaining the records has determined that there is a risk of harm to individuals, the agency, the Federal Government, or national security, and the disclosure is reasonably necessary to assist in connection with the agency's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm; and (14) to another Federal agency or Federal entity, when the agency maintaining the record determines that information from this system of records is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in responding to a suspected or confirmed breach or in preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the recipient agency or entity, the Federal Government, or national security. See also the OGE/GOVT-1 executive branch-wide Privacy Act system of records.

## Public Burden Information

This collection of information is estimated to take an average of ten hours per response, including time for reviewing the instructions, gathering the data needed, and completing the form. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Program Counsel, U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) Suite 500, 1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005-3917.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and no person is required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number (that number, 3209-0001, is displayed here and at the top of the first page of this OGE Form 278e).

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