RE: OPPOSED to Proposed conflict of Interest Rule and Related Proposals, RIN 1210-AB32 & ZRIN: 1210-ZA25

By design IRA’s are the most tax efficient choice for investments. The vast majority of us lucky enough to even have an IRA consider carefully our investment choices. Sound financial decisions require considerable investor time spent in research and education. The best resources for education and asset protection comes from brokers who want well informed clients.

I am extremely concerned after learning that our Department of Labor has proposed that my investment choices, access to information and availability of critical financial education be withdrawn or extremely limited. This is for my protection? How? I have worked very hard to save a small nest egg. I utilize both futures and options within my IRA as a revenue stream with covered calls, for asset protection, and to purchase equities at a discount. I do so safely after having been vetted by the brokers I use as competent to use these derivatives. I should be allowed to continue to grow and protect my retirement funds.

I am among millions of small retail investors who utilize options and futures in IRA accounts. I am a self-directed investor. I actively seek and use the educational and research tools available at no cost from my broker. I do not see any benefit in the DOL proposal for extreme limitation of investment choice and financial education. The public sector successfully manages investments within their IRAs which grow and become a greater taxable asset. This benefits the government and enhances the retirement security of the investors. Preventing access to options, futures, advice, education, research tools and analytical software for IRA accounts will be a catastrophe with many unintended consequences.

Please, please, keep all of my existing IRA investment options available to me. Please allow me to continue to have access to the truly excellent educational and broker assistance I now enjoy. Please stop the ill-conceived DOL proposal.

If President Obama wishes to protect the public from scams in which brokers churn accounts or sell high priced vehicles when lower cost underlying’s are available, address those issues specifically but leave the much larger population of hard working self-directed retail investors alone.

Please withdraw RIN 1210-AB32 and ZRIN: 1210-ZA25.

Respectfully,

Martin Mainster