

From: je.howard@cox.net
To: [TM FR Notices](#)
Subject: LOP Fee Opposition
Date: Monday, September 30, 2019 3:10:37 PM

Dear USTPO,

I am writing this letter to voice my opposition to the proposed filing fee of \$100 for a Letter of Protest (LOP). With the recent increase in trademark filings, and more importantly the exponential increase in what I would refer to as frivolous trademark applications specifically in trademark class 025, I strongly oppose this proposed fee. The current process for submitting an LOP provides valuable assistance to the USTPO office by serving as additional “eyes and ears” for the examiner. Many print on demand sellers try to use the trademark process to prevent other sellers from selling apparel displaying specific phrases or words. This is not the purpose of a trademark, yet for whatever reason, the USTPO has issued trademarks for common words or phrases that are merely ornamental, and not an identifier of the applicant’s brand.

Trademarks for such words as “dog”, “wifey”, “honey”, “team bride”, “baseball mom”, “volleyball life”, “softball mom”, “football mom”, “busy mom”, etc. See a trend here?

None of these are identifiable to a brand. There is no risk of brand confusion when these and many other phrases and words are used ornamentally on a tee shirt, yet these and many equally frivolous trademarks have been issued recently.

The proposed \$100 LOP fee will ensure that even more of these types of words and phrases are trademarked. That goes against the stated goal and purpose of the US Trademark.

I strongly urge the USPTO to abandon the proposed LOP filing fee and continue accepting LOPs without a fee.

Very Sincerely,
Jeff Howard