

From: [Lennea Truesdell](#)
To: [TM FR Notices](#)
Subject: Proposed LOP fee
Date: Sunday, September 22, 2019 12:00:06 PM

To Whom It May Concern;

As a small business owner in the ever crowded internet retail space, I am very opposed to the proposed LOP fee.

My husband had a stroke recently and I am now the sole provider for my family. The income I receive from my small online business literally keeps us in our home and able to pay our bills. I have needed to file over 30 LOPs in the past year. These LOPs were for marks that, had they been approved, would have directly affected my business by limiting my ability to sell my best selling items. There is no way I could afford even 300 dollars, let alone 3000 dollars to oppose these marks. I know many of these marks would have been approved had I not filed the LOPs.

In recent years, trademarks have been increasingly abused out in the real world marketplace. Sellers are getting trademarks for common, trendy phrases even though, according to the TMEP, these should not be allowed. They then over reach their trademark rights by insisting selling platforms remove any products with the popular phrase on them (even though they are used ornamentally and in no way cause market confusion). When this happens, sellers such as me, have no recourse except for costly litigation. I can barely afford basic expenses of housing, food and medical care, let alone hiring an attorney to fight frivolous enforcement of marks that should not have been trademarkable in the first place.

Charging for this checks and balances of the trademark process would greatly discriminate against small businesses, a great many owned by women with no other source of income, without the budgets for attorneys. If this proposal goes through, the big businesses win once again.

Please, listen to the voices of small business owners who are fighting against the abuse of trademarks in the real world and allow us to continue to protect our rights in the very limited way that LOPs afford- without the burden of an expense most of us simply cannot afford.

Sincerely,
Lennea Truesdell, small business owner

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10