

**From:** [Heide Alexander](#)  
**To:** [TM FR Notices](#)  
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Trademarks are already priced way too high for most small businesses. The proposed increase in fees promises to further perpetuate this problem. The cost of operating the USPTO should be on the decline due to computerization of the whole process. How can the increases be justified? Any costly inefficiencies should be resolved within the USPTO and not passed on to the public!

The current increase skews the playing field to favor big business and wealthy individuals. Perhaps trademark pricing should be set according to size of business to make the competition fair for all. Furthermore, I propose the maintenance fees are lowered to offset the exorbitant registration price.

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