

**From:** [Shawna](#)  
**To:** [TM FR Notices](#)  
**Cc:** [Fee Setting: Cain, Catherine](#)  
**Subject:** proposed \$100-200 fee for filing a letter of protest  
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I am writing because I am concerned about the proposed \$100-200 fee for filing a letter of protest (LOP).

Currently the situation appears to be that the USPTO has been approving frivolous trademarks without properly researching to see if the words are already in common use. When an individual or small business files an LOP, I frankly see it as providing free research to the USPTO, rather than adding to the cost of the process. If the employees of the USPTO were to do the full research themselves, I believe it would cost the USPTO more money in salary dollars. Surely a practice with saves the USPTO money while at the same time allowing it to serve its purpose better is a practice that should be encouraged?

Please consider as well changing the examiner's trademark review process for common items such as apparel, cell phone accessories, etc. to include an online search to rule out widespread use. The trend towards more and more attempts to "corner the market" by registering frivolous trademarks that are then used to take down items using the phrase in an ornamental fashion is a scourge on the print-on-demand industry, many participants in which are small businesses.

Instead of burdening small business owners with paying for letters of protest, please consider increasing the cost of filing a trademark to cover USPTO's operational costs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Shawna Cameron