

From: [Shelli Johnson](#)
To: [Fee.Setting](#); [TM.FR Notices](#); [Cain, Catherine](#)
Subject: Proposed LOP fee
Date: Monday, September 30, 2019 12:50:09 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to voice my concern about the proposed \$100-200 fee for filing a letter of protest. I file letters of protest because I am a content creator, and many times, after I have a shirt that is selling someone will come behind me to try to claim the decorative phrase they also use on their merchandise as a trademark.

The USPTO has been approving frivolous trademarks without researching to see if the words are already in common use. These trademarks impact my business because I can be kicked off my platform because someone is allowed to file frivolously and then submit IP claims against existing designs and merchandise.

A fee would present a hardship to me because I am a small business of one person and there are many people that are clearly not following the intent of trademarks and are using them to try to make a monopoly on a phrase instead of a true trademark brand function.

Please consider changing the examiner's trademark review process for apparel items to include an online search to rule out widespread use. Also, photoshopped pictures of tags on apparel should also not be able to be used as proof of their use of the phrase.

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.

Best Regards,

Shelli Johnson

Business owner of Living Out Loud Tees