

cancel proposed increases for small entity fees  
From: Michelle Baker <michellebaker16@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 3:22 PM  
To: fee.setting  
Subject: cancel proposed increases for small entity fees

To Whom It May Concern - Raising the patent fees in this manner will primarily hurt small firms. This goes against the stated national policy of promoting innovation. Studies have shown that small tech firms have a higher rate of innovation and of patents per employee than large firms see e.g. <http://archive.sba.gov/advo/research/rs335tot.pdf> despite the fact that large firms have significant advantages in patent enforcement. It is already difficult for small, cash strapped, tech startups firms to afford patents. These fees will only make it more difficult.

I urge you to reconsider and instead, if the need for funds for the patent office is the reason for the increased fees, increase the fees for large corporations that are able to easily afford the increase.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Baker