

From: [Nicola Augustson](#)
To: [TM FR Notices](#)
Subject: Fee for Letters of Protest
Date: Monday, September 30, 2019 10:15:27 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to voice my great concern about the proposed \$100-200 fee for filing letters of protest (LOP).

I file these LOPs to protect myself and other small business entrepreneurs from frivolous trademarks. These frivolous trademarks impact our ability to do business, and those who file these frivolous trademarks often do so to bully other small businesses out of the marketplace.

The USPTO has been approving these frivolous trademarks without researching to see if the words are already in common use. Please consider changing the examiner's trademark review process to include an online search to rule out widespread use.

A fee would present a hardship to me, as a small business I would not be able to protect my business as the cost would be too high to file LOPs.

Instead of burdening small business owners with paying for LOPs, please consider increasing the cost of filing a trademark to cover USPTO's operational costs. Charging more to file might also decrease the number of frivolous trademarks filed in the first place.

Sincerely,

Nicola Augustson
[August Design Studio](#)