

From: [Linda Austin](#)
To: [TM FR Notices](#)
Subject: Protesting: \$100 fee to file Letter of Protest
Date: Monday, September 30, 2019 10:48:38 PM

September 30, 2019

To whom this may concern,

I'm writing not as a lawyer or corporate officer. I'm writing as a small, one-person entrepreneur operating on a shoe string budget who is making a go at a business after many years being out of the labor market.

I have been a homemaker for many years but am now launching my online business. I create products that feature phrases—phrases that are humorous, motivational, inspirational, thought-provoking, and sometimes political. Most of the phrases I have totally created on my own. I also spin off popular, colloquial, pop cultural phrases and slang words, by adding or modifying with my own clever twists of phrases.

In all cases, I am absolutely mindful of copyright and trademark infringement.

I'm writing to object to the \$100 fee that is required to file a protest against a phrase—or word!—that I strongly believe ought to remain 'free and clear' for everyone's use. That is, no one should lay claim to phrasing or wording that has been in use in the general population, for many years, if not decades. For me as a small business owner, \$100 to protest common, everyday-use phrases and words can become expensive and, as I see it, is an undue and unnecessary burdensome cost. Not to mention unfair to the small business who has a tiny staff.

Examples with registration number enclosed by ().

- Taco Tuesday
- Dogs (5843989)
- Duh (5535385)
- Honey Bunny (5446144)
- Pink Mermaid (5434275)
- 4th of July (4872453)
- Dumpster Diver (5571028)
- Bride's Maid (5097568)
- 1776 (5385816)
- Baseball Mom (4783660)
- What your superpower? (4169154)
- Can of Corn (as baseball slang)
- Ring of Fire
- Meatless Monday

I understand that there is a 'cost of doing business' but this cost is not only unnecessary, it's expensive AND unfair. The protester should not be required to pay a \$100 filing fee.

OR.... Please strongly consider requiring people/companies that wish to hold a trademark-protected phrase and/or word must agree to pay for anyone who comes forward with a legitimate challenge to their phrase and/or word. That will discourage frivolous trademarking.

Thank you for considering my objection.

Respectfully submitted by a Small Business Owner,

Linda Austin

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