September 23, 2019

To whom it concerns:

I am writing this to you today to ask that you reconsider the proposed fee of $100 to $200 for submitting Letters of Protest. Please consider the thousands of frivolous trademarks that have already been passed without consideration for the common everyday phrases and common partial phrases! Yes, partial! These practices are known as trademark trolling and are running rampant among pod (print on demand) in order for someone to "corner a market" and prevent others from using them. This impacts small business owners on a daily basis and creates an unfair market for legitimate business owners trying to make a living.

Some examples of frivolous trademarks that have made it through are "Not Today", "Football Mom", "Baseball Mom", "Dogs" just to name a few. I am unable to use any of these above examples on a t-shirt because they are officially trademarked and can result in me losing my business and being sued. We need to ask ourselves, how is it okay to trademark "dogs" to prevent anyone from using this on clothing? This is not how the trademark industry is supposed to work.

I respectfully ask you to please consider modifying the practices of how these trademarks are reviewed and approved before imposing fees to protest them.

Respectfully,

Angela Caterina