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Submitter Information

Name: Patricia Bullis
Submitter's Representative: Jenessa Kauth
Organization: Bullis Bromeliads

General Comment

December 1, 2016

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Commissioner:

This letter is in reference to the proposed U.S. Patent Fees, specifically the significant increases for U.S. Plant Patent applications.

Not only does the U.S. public greatly benefit from the introduction of new plant varieties, it keeps markets interested and flourishing. The process of breeding, selection and development of these new plant varieties typically takes a number of years and there are significant costs prior to introduction. The cost of a U.S. Plant Patent is one of these costs and a significant increase in the U.S. Patent Office's fees could be prohibitive to many plant breeders' programs.

These new products are not sold in high volumes nor at a high cost per unit. Therefore, it takes many years to "payback" the development costs, including the patent costs. It takes approximately 15-20 years to create the new plant and just as much to cover these costs. If this goes into action, it will take me even more.

Increasing the U.S. Plant Patent fees will increase the financial burden on these plant breeders and poses a financial barrier to the Applicants/Assignees from procuring U.S. Plant Patents for their new plants. On behalf of the U.S. Plant Patent Applicants/Assignees (plant breeders, plant breeding companies, licensees), we respectfully request that the U.S. Patent Office reconsider these excessive increases on U.S. Plant Patent applications.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Bullis
Bullis Bromeliads
Princeton, FL

Attachments

Patent Fee Increase Letter Bullis