

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

<b>As of:</b> 11/21/16 7:20 AM
<b>Received:</b> November 18, 2016
<b>Status:</b> Pending_Post
<b>Tracking No.</b> 1k0-8t3q-hg7q
<b>Comments Due:</b> December 02, 2016
<b>Submission Type:</b> Web

**Docket:** PTO-P-2015-0056  
Setting and Adjusting Patent Fees during Fiscal Year 2017

**Comment On:** PTO-P-2015-0056-0001  
Setting and Adjusting Patent Fees during FY 2017

**Document:** PTO-P-2015-0056-DRAFT-0014  
Comment on FR Doc # 2016-23093

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## Submitter Information

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## General Comment

Regarding plant patents, a 30% increase in issue fees is excessive. On behalf of the many horticulturists and plant breeders we work with, we would like to request reconsideration of this increase. Horticulture products are not high volume, high priced products, and it is already difficult to recuperate plant patent costs. The increased level of nit picking office actions on plant patents has greatly increased our costs over the last three years as well. In addition to nitpicking every application, the examiners now presumes we are guilty of selling more than a year before filing and we now have to spend a lot of time and money responding to office actions proving we did nothing wrong. I am sure these activities are driving up costs at the USPTO as well, but a 30% fee increase is not the answer. It will lead to even more worthless, nit picking office actions. Please reconsider the fee increase and examine the wasted government money spent on frivolous office actions. Reducing them will save all of us time and money.