

From: [Domenic Fedele](#)
To: [TM FR Notices](#)
Cc: [Fee Setting: Cain, Catherine](#)
Subject: \$100 Fee Proposal - Objection
Date: Monday, September 30, 2019 11:44:57 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

As a small business owner, I design t-shirts primarily for sale online. The number of frivolous trademarks is out of control and hurts competition.

A tiny snapshot of some recent examples of registered trademarks which I deem frivolous are for the words:

- dogs - 5843989,
- 1970 -5651855,
- neighbourhood - 5505435,
- war - 5544499
- ginger - 5522713
- rematch - 5693289
- hippie vibe - 5613418
- mommy to be - 5133777
- football mom - 4783661
- baseball mom - 4783660
- softball mom - 4783658
- no sleep - 3812057
- be the man - 5489044
- volleyball life - 5180887
- mistakes - 5544220

This has got to stop. There is a tendency for people who find a top-selling shirt design, to go and trademark the words to hijack the listing and put the original owner out of business. If someone wants to trademark a common word or phrase, they should prove that they need this for their established business, not just so they can use it to make t-shirts on Amazon and stop everyone else doing it. That is not a true business reason and it is anticompetitive.

Our only democratic recourse is to file a Letter Of Protest (LOP). Given that it is proposed to cost \$100 each time an LOP is filed, this is a massive handicap to small business owners like myself and thousands of others trying to run an honest t-shirt design business.

These frivolous trademark applications require much more scrutiny, not a \$100 fee for Letters of Protest.

I urge you to reverse the decision to apply a \$100 Letter of Protest fee. I find it undemocratic and anticompetitive to have to pay to voice an objection in the form of a Letter of Protest with the USPTO for trademark applications on common words. I would have to pay \$1,500 just on the small list above and I would have to pay \$100 again and again each time someone tried to trademark the same word again. This is unfair and if any fee is proposed, it should be to the person filing a trademark proposal, not to the public who are trying to voice their objection under the rule of free speech.

Yours respectfully,

Domenic Fedele.