

**From:** [Helena Benefield Garansi](#)  
**To:** [TM FR Notices](#)  
**Subject:** Latest fee proposals for Letter of Protest filings  
**Date:** Thursday, August 29, 2019 6:43:04 PM

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Good evening,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed \$100 fee to file a letter of protest on potential trademarks. It is my belief that the actual fees to trademark should be increased and that there should be a penalty to those who file frivolous trademarks that are then ruled null and void. The people coming to you to file these letters of protest are performing a service to the USPTO by pointing out false and frivolous trademarks. These invalid Marks are forcing many people to change or close businesses due to rules not being correctly applied. I also believe monetary penalties should be enforced and trademarks stripped when a business with a specific trademark bullies, harasses or abuses other businesses by misusing the rights given to them in that trademark. Too often, small businesses are shut down due to simple words and popular phrases which should never be given a trademark without proof that the filer is 100% behind the usage and creation of said phrases and words. People who file letters of protest should not be punished when they are doing what is right in the eyes of the law. With words like "The" and "Dogs" being trademarked by this office the public has every right to fight abuse of copyright law. I personally have never filed a Letter of Protest but I know many who have and were able to put a stop to frivolous Marks that would have been given to others. Not if you would like to charge a tier cost of 100.00 to those who file more than a set number of LoP in a month's time I can understand that especially if there are many resubmits. But please do not punish the whole of the public and reward big business by not giving the public a fair hand in helping you to do your job. I implore you to please listen to reason when changing your fee schedule. The burden of punishment for your excessive workload belongs on those who file frivolous applications for Marks, not the upstanding citizens trying to make a legitimate living who are trying to prevent such frivolous marks from coming to fruition.

Respectfully yours

Helena Benefield Garansi

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