

From: [Gerald Hylla](#)
To: [Fee.Setting](#)
Cc: [TM FR Notices](#); [Cain, Catherine](#)
Subject: Response to Proposed Fee for Letters of Protest
Date: Monday, September 30, 2019 10:47:27 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Today I am taking the time writing to you so that I may voice my concern about the proposed \$100-200 fee for filing a letter of protest. I do hope that you will take this into consideration and not pass this fee, as it will be a hardship on others like myself a small business owner that is just trying to make a living.

I file letters of protest to help show why a trademark request should be denied, and feel this does help the assigned attorney save time upon researching and possibly missing important information. The more we can assist and send in proof is better over all, as extra eyes, knowledge and work being done to show just cause why items should not pass should be welcomed and not punished.

The USPTO has been approving frivolous trademarks without researching to see if the words are already in common use, as the attorneys working within the USPTO. These trademarks impact my business in multiple ways, mostly as I am being restricted from being able to use common phrases, sayings and single words on items I am trying to sell.

Charging A fee to file a letter of protest would present a hardship to me as there are so many people filing to trademark more and more common used saying, phrases, and words to block competition. As an apparel designer, creator, and seller As more frivolous trademarks are passed my job becomes harder to stay with in legal limits to my options. Products I have selling for time becomes infringement and causes me to remove items from my inventory. As well as This is causing business owners as myself having to submit multiple letters a week to keep up on all the new requests, which adds up and takes away any profits from our businesses. If we do not file then we risk being restricted to what products We can create and sell and overall hurts us.

Please consider changing the examiner's trademark review process for apparel items to include an online search to rule out widespread use.

Instead of burdening small business owners with paying for letters of protest, please consider increasing the cost of filing a trademark to cover USPTO's operational costs.

Sincerely,
Gerald T. Hylla
Business owner

Sent from my iPad