

From: [Helen Kinson](#)
To: [TM FR Notices](#)
Subject: Proposed Fee For Filing A Letter of Protest
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 8:34:44 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to explain my concern about the proposed \$100-200 fee for filing a letter of protest. I believe this will be disastrous because if this happens then anyone can file a frivolous trademark without any fear of anyone protesting it. I cannot stress enough how bad this will be.

Unfortunately, the USPTO sometimes approves frivolous trademarks because not enough research is done to determine that the words are already in common use. The letters of protest help point out these instances and help ensure that only legitimate trademarks go through.

A fee would be awful because it would encourage vast numbers of people to apply for frivolous trademarks because they will have no fear of anyone stopping them. The letters of protest are extremely vital and without those frivolous trademarks will be rampant. There is no way the average person can afford to pay such a high fee for every letter of protest. That would cost thousands of dollars and shut down nearly everyone that writes these letters. By passing this fee, you will ensure that applications for frivolous trademarks will increase dramatically.

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 as this will stop the primary reason for why we have to file letters in the first place. A higher cost to file a trademark will ensure that less people file frivolous trademarks and instead focus only on true trademarks around their brand.

Sincerely,

Helen Kinson

Small Business Owner in Woodbridge, VA