

**From:** [Kellie Neet](#)  
**To:** [TM FR Notices](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on USPTO's Proposal to Charge for LOP's  
**Date:** Sunday, September 22, 2019 4:39:37 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am strongly opposed to the USPTO's proposal to establish a fee for filing a letter of protest (LOP) against a trademark application.

The current system is heavily abused, with many trademark applicants (from countries around the world) filing applications solely to stifle competition. For example, they will apply for a trademark for a popular t-shirt phrase like "Women love men who cook" or "Let's get shamrocked" in the 025 category as a means to prevent other small business owners such as myself from using that phrase on t-shirts. They know that all small business owners will then be prevented from using that phrase on t-shirts on print on demand (POD) platforms like Merch by Amazon, Redbubble, and Spreadshirt.

These applications are a blatant misuse of the intentions of trademarks. "Women love men who cook" is not an identified brand name, and certainly not an original phrase.

Unfortunately, a large number of these applications are approved by the USPTO, for what reasons, I do not know. These phrases are clearly ornamental, not identified with a brand, and frivolous; intended solely to prevent competition.

For myself and other small business owners who work in the POD industry, our only recourse is to file LOP's to stop these petty trademark applications.

If the USPTO would deny these as they should, then we would not have to file LOP's.

Therefore, the idea of charging \$100 or \$200 for LOP's is completely misguided.

If more funds are needed by the USPTO, I suggest they become more stringent in their approval process of trademarks, using the system as it was originally intended, and charge an additional \$200 to every applicant whose frivolous trademark is denied.

Thank you,

Kellie Neet