

**From:** [Christina Routon](#)  
**To:** [Fee.Setting](#)  
**Cc:** [TM FR Notices](#); [Cain, Catherine](#)  
**Subject:** No Fee for Letters of Protest  
**Date:** Sunday, September 22, 2019 1:13:42 AM

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Hello,

My name is Christina Routon. I'm a graphic designer and pattern designer. I have a small online business selling t-shirts, tote bags, and seamless patterns.

Before I create anything featuring a text-based design, I make sure I am not infringing on a registered trademark. It's surprising to me the number of common words and phrases that have been granted trademarks. Common words such as DOGS have been given a registration number. Using common words and phrases are against the USPTO guidelines.

My only recourse as a designer is to file a letter of protest. This is the public's way of preventing a frivolous trademark from getting through the registration process. A fee of \$100 to \$200 is out of my budget as a small business owner. I understand the number of letters has increased dramatically as a result of it being easier than ever to sell a product online. But if anything the fees associated with filing a trademark may need to be increased. Or charge the fee to someone who is found to have filed a frivolous trademark instead.

I urge you to reconsider this fee. This is our only option to fight frivolous trademarks. Without this option business owners aren't able to bring attention to the potential trademarks that violate USPTO guidelines.

Thank you,

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Christina Routon