

**From:** [Nidia Sias](#)  
**To:** [TM FR Notices](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Fee for Letter of Protest  
**Date:** Monday, September 23, 2019 2:11:48 PM

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I am writing to express my deepest concerns about the proposed \$100-200 fee for filing a letter of protest.

I and others file letters of protest because many tend to apply for trademarks that have no ground to stand on or any value behind it.

The USPTO has been approving frivolous trademarks without researching to see if the words are already in common use or are common phrases. These trademarks impact my business in being able what to design and create for people.

A fee would present a difficult hardship to freedom of speech. Nobody should own common use/words/phrases.

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

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

Sincerely,

Your name  
Nidia S.