

**From:** [Ann Sobczak](#)  
**To:** [TM FR Notices](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to the Proposed Fee for Letter of Protest  
**Date:** Monday, September 23, 2019 3:43:51 PM

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

I file letters of protest because: BUSY MOM (5250857), FOOTBALL MOM (4783661), BASEBALL MOM (4783660), SOFTBALL MOM (4783658), and DOGS (5843989) are parts of every day speech and should not be allowed to be trademarked.

The USPTO has been approving frivolous trademarks without researching to see if the words are already in common use. These trademarks impact my business because I am not allowed to use common words and sentences in my designs. I find it ludicrous that the USPTO is creating a hardship for those trying to protest common words being trademarked rather than penalize the people who are trying to scam the system by trademarking common words. I am aware that it must create a hardship on the USPTO staff when they have to review this many letters of protest, but it appears that the wrong issue is being addressed. If more filings for trademarks were dismissed because they didn't pass some simple up front tests, we wouldn't need to file the LOP's. Please think about this.

A fee would present a hardship to me because the frivolous trademarks already approved impact my bottom line and now I have no recourse to fight them.

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, consider increasing the cost of filing a trademark to cover USPTO's operational costs.

Sincerely,

Ann S.  
Very SMALL Business owner