

**From:** [Natalie Speth](#)  
**To:** [TM FR Notices](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed fee for Letters of Protest  
**Date:** Monday, September 23, 2019 2:21:03 PM

---

Hello,

I am writing to ask that you please reconsider the decision to charge \$100 to file a Letter of Protest against fraudulent trademarks. I see you have received numerous comments on the matter already and I would like to add my perspective. In the last few years, there has been a massive surge in the number of people doing business in the Print-On-Demand industry and this has created an entirely new playing field for how small business operates. It is now easier than ever before for someone to start a product producing business from their home via the computer. Because of this, there is a lot of competition and thus a large number of people who are abusing the USPTO trademark system to register commonly used phrases just so they can have a financial monopoly on it. These trademarks do not necessarily even belong to a brand, nor is it something they have uniquely created, they just want the sole rights to use it BEFORE someone else grabs it. It's a strategic move only to benefit them financially and not one to protect a brand.

If you start charging \$100 for a LOP it will be much harder for us to fight those that are abusing the system. We simply can not afford to fight that. We need USPTO on our side fighting against this type of corruption.

If USPTO wants to understand that the way trademarks are being used has changed drastically due to how easy it is for anyone to produce and sell products in the Print on Demand industry, then we ask you to please help us in this fight. It will definitely require you to reconsider how easily you hand out trademarks in this era.

Please understand that the field is changing due to how easy it is for a massive amount of people to produce in the print on demand industry, and numerous people are now abusing trademarks, and if we want to address that it will require restructuring how easily USPTO hands out trademarks. Please do not take away our ability to tell you when someone is abusing the system by asking for \$100 to do so.

Thank You,  
Natalie Speth