

From: [Mike Imken](#)
To: [TM FR Notices](#); [Fee.Setting](#); [Cain, Catherine](#)
Subject: Against Fees for Letters of Protest
Date: Monday, September 30, 2019 10:52:14 AM

Hello,

I am strongly against the fees proposed for letters of protest.

I have a small business in the t-shirt and merchandise production arena. I have sold over 4,000 shirts in the past 2 years.

I support intellectual property but letters of protest are needed because there are so many common use sayings that are attempted to be trademarked only to stomp out competition for terms that are not unique or part of an existing brand.

A fee for these letters would present a hardship to myself and many other sellers because \$100 would quickly turn into thousands of dollars fighting common phrases that shouldn't be trademarked, but which are put through by unscrupulous sellers.

Phrases like "I Love My Wife" or "I Work Hard" -- both actual, absurd trademarks that were in common use but approved. They were approved because only until recently did we as merchandise sellers begin to organize to stop frivolous trademarks.

Charging to protest these common phrases would then open the door to even MORE common words and phrases being registered, since many would not be able to fight the improper trademark registrations due to the thousands of dollars necessary to do so.

Instead of charging small business owners seeking to protect existing common phrases that shouldn't be trademarked, another option would be to incorporate a higher cost of filing a trademark to cover the USPTO's costs.

Sincerely,

Mike Imken
Business Owner