

From: [Amanda Weedmark](#)
To: [Fee.Setting](#); [TM.FR Notices](#); [Cain, Catherine](#)
Subject: Fee Setting
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Hello,

It has come to my attention that not only are there a large amount of frivolous trademarks being filed and approved, but that there is now a proposed \$100 fee for those filing Letters of Protest.

It is my suggestion, instead, to have those requesting frivolous trademarks pay an extra fee. When someone attempts to file a trademark on a common single word such as "DOGS" (which was recently somehow actually trademarked), they are simply trying to prevent the success of other businesses.

These are often small businesses that are started by artists, moms, and other individuals who are following their dreams. As an owner of an Etsy shop, I try extremely hard to play fairly and do not use trademarked concepts in my apparel designs. However, this is getting out of control, and it is becoming impossible to keep up with all the trademarks that are being filed simply so others can file take downs of competition. When a word such as "DOGS" is trademarked, it becomes difficult to understand the purpose of a trademark. Is it to protect a legitimate brand, or is it a way a business owner can monopolize the English language for their own profit?

I and many other crafters and small business owners hope that more discretion will be used when approving trademarks, and strongly suggest passing the fee to those who are requesting frivolous trademarks. If we can ensure that trademarks are being requested for the right reasons, surely the amount of LOPs you will receive will decrease.

I appreciate your time in reading this. Thanks for your consideration.

Amanda Weedmark
Small Business Owner, Artist