

From: [Uinta Trading](#)
To: [TM FR Notices](#)
Subject: Proposed Fee for Letter of Protest
Date: Monday, September 23, 2019 2:06:34 AM

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to voice my concern over the proposed fee for filing letters of protest.

As a small business owner who works in apparel, this fee greatly concerns me. Unfortunately, in the apparel industry (and probably every other industry), many people apply for trademarks on common and widely used phrases to edge out the competition. A trademark should be a source identifier, but many people are not using them in that way. As an example, a company named "Neat Print" has trademarked a large number of phrases and common terms that should never have been granted. Some of these include: Awesome Wife, Awesome Husband, Awesome Grandma, Awesome Grandpa, Awesome Uncle, and Awesome Aunt just to name a few. They use this as a way to keep other t-shirt designers from using these very common terms on apparel items. This is anything but awesome.

I understand that examining attorneys have large workloads. The letter of protest is a way for small business owners, like myself, to bring forward evidence to these examining attorneys who don't take the time (or maybe don't have the time to begin with) to do it themselves.

If anything, examining attorneys should view letters of protest as a help, not a hinderance. Small business owners are freely giving of their time to ensure frivolous trademarks are not granted.

Please consider the hardship this fee would put on people like me. We're trying to improve the trademark system, and this fee would set us all back. Perhaps a better solution would be to increase the trademark application fee to cover increased operational costs.

Thank you for your time,
Ashlee H.
Business Owner