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I find that the requirement of 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(u), a \$400 surcharge for filing a patent application in PDF form rather than DOCX, is untenable for me and my clients. This requirement creates unwarranted burden on the public, and should not be approved. The PTO claims that its cost savings are \$3.15 per application. For me, I estimate increased costs to my client in pre-filing error correction, post-filing error correction, potential loss of patent validity, and and general expenditure of time to be much greater than \$400 per patent application filed.

Seventy-three lawyers joined on a letter explaining the costs,

https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Comment_Seventy_Three_Patent_Practitioners_092719.pdf The PTO's "response to comments" in the Federal Register did not genuinely respond. Instead, the PTO rephrased the comments to avoid recognizing the burden created, and to avoid accurately accounting for them to OMB.