

Dear NSF POSE Review Committee,

I am writing to express my support for PolicyEngine's proposal to establish an Open Source Ecosystem (OSE) for their economic policy analysis platform.

As a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution, I have collaborated with PolicyEngine in evaluating their federal and state tax calculation model, particularly in comparison to NBER's TAXSIM model.

My involvement with PolicyEngine has included:

- Evaluating the capabilities of PolicyEngine's tax calculation model.
- Comparing PolicyEngine's features to TAXSIM as part of planning a stable transition for TAXSIM users.
- Convening economists from government agencies and think tanks to identify key features and goals for tax calculation software.

PolicyEngine has demonstrated significant potential in addressing the needs of the economic research community. Their open-source approach offers:

- Comprehensive coverage of federal and state tax systems.
- Flexibility to model complex policy reforms.
- Transparency in methodology and assumptions.
- Potential for collaborative improvement and customization.

As PolicyEngine plans its transition to an OSE, I am committed to continuing our collaboration. Specifically, I plan to:

- Participate in ecosystem discovery activities, providing insights from the perspective of academic researchers and policy analysts.
- Continue evaluating PolicyEngine's capabilities and accuracy, ensuring it meets the high standards required for rigorous economic research.
- Provide feedback on governance structures and community engagement strategies that would best serve the needs of the research community.
- Offer insights on the needs of Brookings researchers and other economists who may use PolicyEngine for tax calculations.
- Help identify potential collaborators and contributors from the academic and policy research communities.

The development of an OSE for PolicyEngine has the potential to significantly advance the field of economic policy analysis. By fostering a collaborative environment for researchers, policymakers, and developers, PolicyEngine can become a crucial tool for evidence-based policymaking.

I look forward to contributing to the planning and scoping process for PolicyEngine's OSE, and to helping shape an ecosystem that serves the diverse needs of the economic research community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Sabelhaus". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

John Sabelhaus  
Visiting Fellow, The Brookings Institution  
Adjunct Research Professor, University of Michigan