November 10, 2023

Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics

Rausser College of Natural Resources

207 Giannini Hall #3310

University of California

Berkeley, CA 94720

To Whom it May Concern:

I am applying to the position of Assistant Professor in the Rausser College of Natural Resources in the University of California, Berkeley.

My research agenda, including my job market paper, published work, and work in progress, is comprised of work in applied microeconomics. My specific fields of interest are public economics, labor economics, applied econometrics, and urban economics. I am equipped to teach classes in these fields or others to respond to the needs of the department.

My job market paper, *Beyond the Local Impacts of Place-Based Policies: Spillovers through Latent Housing Markets*, proposes an approach to study spillover effects of local policies that propagate non-spatially through latent markets. While the approach is particularly relevant for place-based economic development, it can be adapted to other contexts. I exemplify the approach with a place-based policy and estimate spillover effects within latent housing markets. The empirical findings inform conclusions on overall effectiveness and redistribution that differ from analysis using only direct treatment effects.

In another (co-authored) paper, *Levees: Infrastructure and Insurance as Adaptation to Flood Risk*, we study how the take-up of flood insurance changes after the construction of a levee. Both flood insurance and a levee are publicly funded and it is of interest how these two interventions detract from or reinforce each other, given households’ behavioral responses. In addition to observing construction dates, we incorporate novel data on accreditation dates, after which properties protected by accredited levees experience a reduction in the price of flood insurance. We find that levee construction decreases flood insurance by 20% and levee accreditation does not further change flood insurance take-up. We estimate that decreases in flood insurance take-up due to levee construction decreases aggregate household insurance spending by only $183,325 per levee-mile, but levees save over $4.7 million in averted expected damages per levee-mile.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anna Ziff