



6 April 2020

Dear Dr. He:

I am writing regarding the contract renewal of the current Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Asian Economics* (JAE), Dr. Calla Wiemer. My understanding is that you have denied her a three-year renewal of her contract to be Editor-in-Chief of the JAE. This is a really unfortunate development as Dr. Wiemer has worked tirelessly and successfully to improve the quality of the JAE. She has assembled an excellent editorial team and has worked closely with them to improve every aspect of JAE's operation. I urge Elsevier to reconsider its decision and to offer Dr. Wiemer a long-term extension of her contract, as this is clearly in the interest of Elsevier and the JAE.

Dr. Wiemer is a pioneer in the field of economics publishing. She is one of the few female editor-in-chiefs among the top 200 journals in the economics profession. To my knowledge, she is the only female editor-in-chief of an economics journal focused on Asia. This is an incredible achievement that Elsevier should be celebrating! Calla has been an exceptionally successful editor and has worked tirelessly to promote JAE, both globally and within Asia. Before Dr. Wiemer became Editor-in-Chief, the JAE was not listed in the SSCI rankings. JAE is now one of the journals included in the SSCI rankings, which tremendously increases the prestige of publication in the *Journal*. Within REPEC's ranking of economics journals, the JAE has moved up from a ranking in the 260s to a ranking in the 160s. This is an amazing achievement for a journal and its editor to pull off in a short period of time.

Elsevier publishes the JAE on behalf of the American Committee on Asian Economic Studies (ACAES). I am the ACAES Treasurer and can testify that she has the full support of the entire ACAES leadership team. We are particularly upset at Elsevier's shameful treatment of Dr. Wiemer, as Elsevier neither acknowledges nor celebrates her achievements but rather attempts to force out a female economist who has been a pioneer in the field of economics journal publishing. I strongly urge Elsevier to offer Dr. Wiemer a three-year contract which will enable her to continue her work in strengthening JAE's quality and reputation. Renewing Dr. Wiemer's contract will enable Elsevier to point proudly to the JAE's achievements over the next few years.

It is in the best interest of all parties for Elsevier to offer a three-year contract renewal to Dr. Wiemer so that she has appropriate incentives to continue her outstanding work.

Please contact me at lacroix@hawaii.edu if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. La Croix'.

Sumner La Croix
Professor Emeritus
Treasurer, American Committee on Asian Economic Studies