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April 13, 2020

Dr. Haili He
Elsevier Beijing Ltd.
China

Dear Dr. Haili He,

We are writing you in support of Dr. Calla Wiemer, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Asian Economics (JAE)* since 2015, and of the continuation of the relationship between *JAE* and the American Committee on Asian Economic Studies (ACAES).

We met Dr. Wiemer at the 2019 ASSA meetings and, as co-authors of two journal articles published at *JAE*, we have first-hand experience of the excellent job she has performed as Editor-in-Chief ensuring prompt response times and seamless handling of the revision process. More importantly, during Dr. Wiemer's tenure the *JAE* has ascended to become the leading journal in the field of Asian economic studies as measured by journal metrics. Both the journal impact factor's and its CiteScore have registered steady improvements since 2015. Key reasons for these upwards trends include the excellent editorial work by Dr. Wiemer and *JAE*'s editorial board and the journal ties to an academic society; namely, the ACAES. Our personal experience has revealed that the current Editor-in-Chief is operating *JAE* at a high efficiency when compared to other journals in terms of decision times. Maintaining the journal's connection to an academic society is imperative for its appeal to authors through the high-visibility opportunities the ACAES offers. Lastly, given the under-representation of female leaders in the Economics discipline, maintaining a female Editor-in-Chief is an element of pride for the journal. Clearly, the *JAE* stands to only benefit from an extension Dr. Wiemer's contract to a three-year term and, therefore, we urge you to reconsider the one-year contract extension offered.

In sum, we strongly urge you to reconsider and offer Dr. Wiemer a three-year term contract to ensure growth of the journal's reputation. We also urge you to reconsider and ensure the continuation of the relationship between *JAE* and the American Committee on Asian Economic Studies (ACAES).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jorge Martinez-Vazquez'.

Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, Regents Professor, Department of Economics, Georgia State University & Director of Georgia State University Public Finance Research Cluster (FRC, CSLF, ICePP).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AM'.

Antonios M. Koumpias, Assistant Professor of Economics, Department of Social Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn & Research Affiliate, Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research.