Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Understanding the Growth in Seasonal H-2A Labor

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB, TB, SOR,) EIB

Agency: Economic Research Service USDA

[X] Influential Scientific Information
[ ] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Kelly B. Maguire <kelly.b.maguire@usda.gov>

Subject of Review: The H-2A guest worker program allows U.S. agricultural employers to hire foreign workers on a temporary or seasonal basis. Many U.S. producers of labor-intensive commodities are adjusting to tighter farm labor markets by employing H-2A workers. The program has rapidly expanded over the last decade with the total number of H-2A certifications increasing from 79,000 in 2010 to 257,000 in 2019. This report explores how H-2A usage levels differ by agricultural sector, across geography, and by the type of firm requesting the workers. The analyses in this study can provide a benchmark for future changes in H-2A labor trends resulting from disruptions induced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [ ] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers

[ ] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 6/5/2020 Completed: 10/10/2020 Withdrawn: XX/XX/XX

Number of Reviewers: [ ] 3 or fewer [x] 4 to 10 [ ] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [ ] Designated Outside Organization

Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [ ] Yes [X] No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [ ] Yes [X] No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [ ] Yes [X] No