

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Do Free Trade Agreements Benefit Developing Countries? An Examination of U.S. Agreements

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EIB

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information  
USDA [ ] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

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Subject of Review: This report provides evidence on the impacts of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) on developing countries, focusing on FTAs between the U.S. and its partners which are considered to be lower- and middle-income countries (noted as developing here and by the United Nations). To do so, we provide background information on tariffs, both those available to all members of the WTO, and those negotiated in FTAs, to highlight that FTA partners face lower tariffs than all other countries. For those countries with an FTA with both the U.S. and the EU, we provide information on the EU tariffs for comparison. To illustrate some of the benefits from FTAs, we provide changes in agricultural trade (both imports and exports), using 5 years before and 5 years after the trade agreement. Rather than comparing the 5-year import/export averages from before the trade agreement to after, we compare the average year-over-year changes from the 5 years before the trade agreement to the 5 years after. This allows us to mitigate any distortionary effects from large trade volume changes in a single year.

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: 1/24/2022 Completed: 04/19/2022

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

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