

November 2, 2018

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in the tenure-track assistant professor position that you advertised on Job Openings for Economics. I am a public economist specializing in local public finance, with a secondary interest in applied/spatial econometrics and labor economics. I will complete my Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in May 2019. I believe that my interdisciplinary background, my motivation to engage actively in independent research, and my significant teaching experience make me an excellent fit for the position in your department.

My primary research interest focuses on understanding the distortionary effects of jurisdictional tax differences on economic activity and local competition. In my job market paper, I employ a previously unused dataset on fueling station locations in the United States and their corresponding retail gasoline prices. With these unique data, I estimate how state tax discontinuities affect business location decisions and the distribution of the tax burdens between buyers and sellers near borders. My analysis is the first to show a significant increase in the number of fueling stations on the low-tax side of a state border. Also, I show that consumers bear 75¢ for every dollar of gasoline tax on the high-tax side, as compared to a one-for-one dollar burden on the low-tax side. This effect dissipates within 15 miles of the border. The differences in the number of retailers and their pricing strategies on the low- and high-tax side of the border give evidence of the change in the competitive nature of the retail gasoline market near jurisdictional boundaries. You can find more details about this and other of my research projects in the attached research statement.

In addition, I am an enthusiastic educator who wants to foster the critical thinking of my students using exams and assignments that require analysis and integration of concepts. I believe that guidance, practice, and confidence are required for students to reach their full learning potential. I use hands-on examples in both my undergraduate and graduate classes to more fully engage students and to give them direct experience with the course material. I hold additional office hours before exams to answer questions and to help students gain the confidence necessary to perform well. I aim to inspire students to have a long-lasting interest in economics.

Included in my application are copies of my CV, job market paper, research statement, and teaching statement. My letters of reference from Professors David Albouy, Don Fullerton and Dan McMillen are also included.

I am excited about the prospect of working in your department. I will be attending the ASSA Meetings in Atlanta. I would be pleased if we could arrange to meet for an interview. I can be reached via email at [hrtdmrt2@illinois.edu](mailto:hrtdmrt2@illinois.edu) or by telephone at 713-933-9027.

Best regards,

  
Carlos Hurtado