

Thank you for reviewing the proposal. Below, you will find your original comments in italics followed by our response. In both cases, we restructured part of the Methods section to address your concerns.

Page 7: (highlighting the word “environment”)

*I don't see this in methods so may want to be more explicit if it's to be examined. I may have missed something.*

We made a reference to the environmental/biofuel research in the paragraph discussing farm bill research efforts. To make it more visible, we have moved it to its own paragraph (see highlighted paragraph on page 9). In addition, we have highlighted its relevance by adding some additional details that relate to a current biofuel policy announcement from China that could have an impact on U.S. agricultural commodity and biofuel trade (see page 9).

Page 9: (highlighting “immigration policy to affect bilateral trade flows”)

*How will this ex quantified and analyzed? it seems a bit of a departure from objectives above.*

We have added an additional sentence and reference to clarify that the researchers are proposing to extend previous work that examined the effect of migration patterns on technical efficiency (see highlighted sentence on page 9). The analysis proposed here will follow similar methods.

Thanks again,  
Writing Committee for S\_1072temp