
IRB Review of Project with ILWU

Gary Blasi <gary.blasi@gmail.com>

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To: Daniel Flaming <danflaming@economicrt.org>

Cc: Patrick Burns <patrickburns@economicrt.org>, Jan Breidenbach <jbreidenbach@apt-la.net>

Dear Dan:

Jan Breidenbach and I met this morning as the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Economic Roundtable (ERt). We reviewed the proposed research to be conducted with data maintained by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Longshore Division (ILWU) regarding the wages, characteristics, and geographical location of union members, with the consent on their behalf as to the use data maintained by the union by its General Counsel.

We reviewed (a) the Request for IRB Approval dated January 21, 2121; (b) the letter agreement between ERt and ILWU dated September 14, 2020; and (c) the Data Security and Confidentiality Agreement dated January 15, 2121.

We reviewed the application, as requested, under the standards for expedited (Level II) review. We find that the proposed research meets the criteria to be applied for such review and that there is "minimal risk" as to the "probability and magnitude of harm" no greater than those "encountered in daily life" and that any risk is outweighed by the potential benefit to ILWU members in terms of public support for their economic interests. We also believe that the General Counsel of ILWU is authorized to share the member information ILWU already possesses as a result of the representation of ILWU members and is merely using the specialized skills of ERt to conduct research that it could otherwise do in-house as part of the union's duties of representation of members. We further find, that whatever minimal risks there might be are reduced further by those procedures specified in the data-sharing agreement.

The application referred to above is, therefore, approved.

Gary Blasi
Chair, Institutional Review Board
Economic Roundtable