

## ECON 4730/5730 Case Study Assignment #1

Due: October 15, 2024 by 11:59 pm

Choose either Case Study #1 or #2 and answer the following questions. Please type up your answers and format your tables in academic journal format (see examples on our class website).

- 1) (5 pts). List the top three strengths of the economic analysis with a short explanation of why you consider each a strength.
- 2) (5 pts). List the top three weaknesses of the economic analysis with a short explanation of why you consider it a weakness.
- 3) (5 pts). If you had access to all the necessary data, outline a research plan to start the project from scratch. Write a sentence or two explaining each step in the research plan.
- 4) (5 pts). Economic impact (or contribution) analysis normally only considers the benefits of a new project or program. For your chosen case study, carefully outline a procedure to also incorporate the costs of the project or program.
- 5) (5 pts). UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY. Choose one aspect of the project (e.g., construction, maintenance, operations, etc.) and use IMPLAN to estimate the economic and tax benefits. Make sure to use numbers for IMPLAN that make sense relative to the size of the project. Create two tables of results, one for the economic benefits and another for the tax benefits. Then write two paragraphs interpreting the results and putting the numbers in context.
- 6) (5 pts). GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY. Answer question #5 but add an additional IMPLAN analysis to calculate the opportunity costs of the project or program. Choose one alternative project or program that is reasonable and contrast the results to the case-study. Use the results to comment on whether the project is an optimal use of resources.