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## Invited Introduction to JEREC

Matthew Kahn

University of Southern California and NBER, kahnme@usc.edu

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I graduated from Hamilton College in 1988. While Colby College and Hamilton are athletic rivals in the NESCAC division, I am not a partisan sports fan. I have always deeply admired Colby. Colby's Professor Tom Tietenberg's textbook and academic articles have greatly influenced my thinking. My good friend and co-author Professor Erin Mansur of Dartmouth is a 1995 graduate of Colby.

The twelve Colby students who have conducted original environmental and urban economics research should be congratulated on their impressive achievements. Back when I was 22 years old, I wrote a boring senior thesis on the macroeconomics of the Phillips Curve. As I think back to 29 years ago, I wonder why I wasn't actively pursuing the topics that Colby's new generation of young scholars are now working on.

As I skim through the project titles, I see that I share several common interests with the class of 2017. Each author in this volume has created a lasting piece of new knowledge. Google Scholar will index these papers and these young authors will be cited! Environmental economics is a great research field that continues to attract ever brighter and better trained young people.