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Dear Wikimania 2012 Jury,

Creative Commons is a nonprofit organization that develops, supports, and stewards legal and technical infrastructure that maximizes digital creativity, sharing, and innovation. Since 2009 Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike has been the primary copyright license for Wikimedia projects. The Wikimedia movement is the exemplar and pioneer of the commons; as such work with the Wikimedia Foundation, chapters, and movement have been among the most valuable and fulfilling of collaborations engaged in by Creative Commons and the worldwide Creative Commons affiliate network.

Many of the highest opportunities for the commons converge on Washington, DC (and other capitals) – increased access, participation, transparency, and alignment with public interest – concerning cultural heritage, education, science, public sector information, and other areas dominated by public funding and public policy. Wikimania hosted in DC would powerfully communicate the value of the commons to the policy community, both in the U.S., and worldwide.

Creative Commons staff, affiliates, and board members have participated in past Wikimanias. If Wikimania 2012 were to be held in DC, we would look to take the opportunity to engage in more significant participation and leverage, e.g., by holding a hemispheric gathering of Creative Commons affiliates adjacent to Wikimania.

For these reasons I would like to express the support of Creative Commons for Wikimedia DC's bid to host Wikimania 2012.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael A Linksvayer'.

Mike Linksvayer
Vice President
Creative Commons