



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Washington, DC

March 18, 2011

The Wikimania 2012 Jury
The Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.
149 New Montgomery Street, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to you in support of the bid by Wikimedia DC to host the International Wikimedia Conference, Wikimania, in 2012.

The Office of eDiplomacy has worked since it was established in 2003 to improve knowledge management at the State Department. Diplopedia, the Department of State's online collaborative encyclopedia of foreign affairs information, is a wiki that was launched in late 2006, and its development greatly benefitted from substantive collaboration with the Wikimedia Foundation. It runs on MediaWiki and has become an indispensable tool for users. Diplopedia celebrated 10,000 articles in February 2010, and now includes more than 13,000 articles contributed by over 4,000 users. Its rapid growth both in articles and contributors demonstrates the viability of this platform for information sharing and collaboration.

eDiplomacy has curated several events under the rubric of Secretary Clinton's Civil Society 2.0 initiative, including a Tech@State on Open Source Software. Wikimedia DC has been an enthusiastic contributor and participant in these events. They would be an excellent choice to host the event, which has not been hosted in North America since 2006. The Wikimedia DC bid would be a great way to bring the event back home.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Boly".

Richard Boly
Office of eDiplomacy
Information Resource Management

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