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**Public Works for a Better Government**

November 20, 2011

The Honorable Dan Lungren, Chairman  
Committee on House Administration  
1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Lungren:

Pursuant to our meeting on July 27, 2011 in your office with Mr. Kiko and Mr. Schweickhardt, I am pleased to inform you that we've completed the processing and upload of the 4,453 files received from the House Broadcast Studio. Those files are now available on the House.Resource.Org system, joining the files we've received directly from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming as well as the 1,038 hearings we purchased from C-SPAN.

The archive now totals 41 terabytes, or approximately 14,760 hours of raw video. Our out-of-pocket costs to date are \$81,513.90. We are pleased to have been able to make this contribution towards making the proceedings of the House of Representatives available on the Internet and would be happy to cooperate with you and your staff as you take the next steps to make these archives available on a permanent basis.

There are four outstanding items we'd like to bring to your attention:

- The pilot project under the direction of Chairman Issa has demonstrated that it is practical and simple to add closed-captioning to hearings. To date, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the only committee to adopt this practice and we would hope that you would encourage other committees to make their hearings accessible to all Americans.
- Per the October 27, 2011 notice from Mr. Hirsch of the House Broadcast Studio, he was unable to complete the shipment of the remaining archives to us for processing due to technical difficulties. While half an archive is better than none, we'd certainly hope that we have the opportunity to finish the job.
- The maintenance of the archives today do not meet Best Current Practices. I would encourage your staff to work with professional archivists to implement steps such as the verification of a DVD, multiple copies of data, and other steps to maintain this important record of the proceedings of the House. It is particularly important that you make multiple copies of the files.

- In the process of locating the metadata for hearings (such as the title, participants, and other items describing the event), we have found that it is exceedingly difficult to find this information. While the Internet Archive keeps an archive of web sites on the “Wayback Machine,” there is no systematic effort by the House to collect hearing information from past congresses. In addition, we noticed a shocking lack of official transcripts for hearings on the GPO’s FDSYS system for events from past years. While we have noticed some progress over the last year in some of these matters, due in no small part to the efforts of your staff and the Speaker’s office, there is still a long way to go.

As we’ve mentioned in frequent meetings with the Office of the Speaker, the Office of the Majority Leader, the House Broadcast Studio, and your staff, we’d be very pleased if the U.S. House of Representatives would make an institutional commitment to make the full archive available on the Internet. As such, I’ve attached 3 Deeds of Gift with 3 options that would make the data we’ve processed available to the House. These options range from having them simply copy the data off the net to a donation of the 90-Tbyte server which currently houses House.Resource.Org.

I will be in Washington the week of December 5 and would be happy to meet with you to discuss these matters. Thank you again for the opportunity to work with your staff and with Chairman Issa and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on the 2011 pilot project. I believe the House of Representatives deserves a hearty round of applause for these important steps to make your proceedings more widely available today and for the future.

Sincerely yours,

Carl Malamud  
Public.Resource.Org

cc: The Honorable Darrell Issa  
The Honorable John Boehner  
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren

# OPTION 3 - Donation of Data

## Deed of Gift

I, the undersigned Donor, hereby donate and convey to the U.S. House of Representatives title, interest, and all rights, including literary and copyright, that I possess in the following materials:

**Description:** 41 Terabytes of disk videos of committee hearings from the House Broadcast Studio and C-SPAN to be downloaded off the net.

**Terms and Conditions, and limitations, if any:**

Video from C-SPAN for non-commercial use only.

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I represent and warrant that I am the sole owner of the materials described above and that I have full right, power and authority to give the materials to the U.S. House of Representatives.

**Donor's name and address:**  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Carl Malamud on behalf of Public.Resource.Org

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1005 Gravenstein Hwy North

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Sebastopol, CA 95472

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**Phone Number:**

707-827-7290

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**E-mail address:**

Carl@media.org

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**Donor's signature**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

The U.S. House of Representatives gratefully acknowledges receipt of this gift and agrees to the stipulations outlined above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

# OPTION 2 - Donation of Local Copy

## Deed of Gift

I, the undersigned Donor, hereby donate and convey to the U.S. House of Representatives title, interest, and all rights, including literary and copyright, that I possess in the following materials:

**Description:** 3 “Drobo” RAID arrays, each with 16 Terabytes of disk, with videos of committee hearings from the House Broadcast Studio and C-SPAN.

**Terms and Conditions, and limitations, if any:**

Video from C-SPAN for non-commercial use only.

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I represent and warrant that I am the sole owner of the materials described above and that I have full right, power and authority to give the materials to the U.S. House of Representatives.

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**Donor’s signature**



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**Date**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

# OPTION 1 - Donation of Full Server

## Deed of Gift

I, the undersigned Donor, hereby donate and convey to the U.S. House of Representatives title, interest, and all rights, including literary and copyright, that I possess in the following materials:

**Description:** One 90 Terabyte server with videos of committee hearings from the House Broadcast Studio and C-SPAN.

**Terms and Conditions, and limitations, if any:**

Video from C-SPAN for non-commercial use only.

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I represent and warrant that I am the sole owner of the materials described above and that I have full right, power and authority to give the materials to the U.S. House of Representatives.

**Donor's name and address:**  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Carl Malamud on behalf of Public.Resource.Org

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**Donor's signature**



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**Date**

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**Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives**

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**Date**