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Sent: Saturday, November 3, 2018 11:24:13 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

To: Jerdonek, Chris (REG)

Subject: Draft CLA for OSVTAC projects

Attached is a draft CLA I made for OSVTAC's projects, based on [Harmony's CLA generator](#). The most prominent Harmony-based CLA is the [Canonical CLA \(PDF\)](#). The attached is the version for individuals, but the one for entities is only very slightly different(*).

In basic terms, this CLA lets the contributor retain the copyright, but grants the entity that maintains the software(**) a perpetual and irrevocable license to distribute the contribution. In exchange, the entity binds itself to only distribute the contribution under the license that was in use at the time the contribution was submitted (in other words, the contributor does not allow the entity to relicense the contribution). GPL v3+ and CC-BY-SA v4+ are also explicitly mentioned as licenses the entity is permitted to distribute under. The contributor also promises that they own the copyright to their contribution.

I reviewed a few other CLAs but I didn't like most of them. In particular, the [Apache CLA](#) (which Tony mentioned in a previous meeting) is simpler, but allows the entity to relicense the contribution. For Apache this is fine, because the Apache license is permissive and allows redistribution under a different license anyway, but for copyleft licenses it doesn't make as much sense.

I did quite like the [JS Foundation's CLA](#) (they manage [well-known JavaScript projects](#) including jQuery and Webpack), because it's simpler/shorter than Harmony's, explicitly allows importing code from other license-compatible open source projects, and the rights granted by the contributor to the entity are narrower. However, it doesn't include a patent grant, and it's not clear to me whether the JS Foundation allows others to reuse/modify its CLA.

So on balance, I think a Harmony-based CLA is the safest choice. If we were to adopt this CLA, we would have to host the two versions of the document and instructions for signing and submitting it at <https://osvtac.github.io/cla> (or some other URL), and add references to it to the CONTRIBUTING.md files in the relevant repos (for some reason, this file is named CONTRIBUTE.md in the project-recommendations repo).

(*) The differences are in the definition of "You" in section 1; the employer-related language in 3(c); and the signature lines at the bottom.

(**) A question we'll need to answer is what this entity is. The City? Some sort of foundation?