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Att: Honorable Myron D. Jackson  
Senator  
Capitol Building, Charlotte Amalie  
P.O. Box 1690  
St. Thomas, U.S. V.I. 00804

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**Testimony, In Search of Identity**

October 26th 2016

Dear Senator Jackson,

On behalf of the Association of Owners of Historic Houses in Denmark and the Danish steering committee, I write to express our full support for our collaborative project In Search of Identity.

We are convinced that knowing our history is essential for our identity and a fulfilling life – this applies to both the Virgin Islanders and the Danes. The most visible trace of our common culture and history is the physical heritage. Unfortunately the historic buildings from the Danish period deteriorate fast in this climate and we are not far from losing the physical traces of our shared history.

With our collaborative project In Search of Identity we intend to secure our shared history by renovating and transforming two, former Danish buildings to a cultural center and museum – and an academy of architecture and craftsmanship.

During the last 1,5 year the steering committee in Denmark have had the pleasure to work closely with Senator Jackson and his team on establishing a strong and lasting cooperation between the two parties regarding In Search of Identity. We feel certain that capacities on both side of the Atlantic can see this trough and we pledge our full support and commitment to ensuring that this project will succeed.

*Historiske Huse er et formaliseret samarbejde mellem*

*Bygnings Frednings Foreningen BYFO (cvr 88628411) og Foreningen Bevaringsværdige Bygninger (cvr 25010078)*



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The project meets strong political support from the Parliaments Cultural Committee and the Minister for Culture Mr. Bertel Haarder, who feels so strongly about In Search of Identity, that he now works as an ambassador for the project. The press has also been interested in the project, and it has been presented in articles in several Danish newspapers.

The great attention from both the press and the Danish Parliament shows, the relevance and potential of our collaborative project.

By generous funding from the Danish Government, private foundations and companies (in total 300.000 US Dollars) we have already implemented the first part of our initial project including the Danish Architectural students surveys and proposals for projects on both St. Thomas and St. Croix.

Over the next 5 months we will work persistently on securing funding, so that Denmark can contribute with our 50 % share of the 20 million dollars.

On behalf of the Danish steering committee and the board of The Association of Owners of Historic Houses in Denmark, I am looking forward to the next phase of the project

Sincerely,

**Mrs. Birthe Iuel**

Chairwoman Association of owners of historic houses in Denmark

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