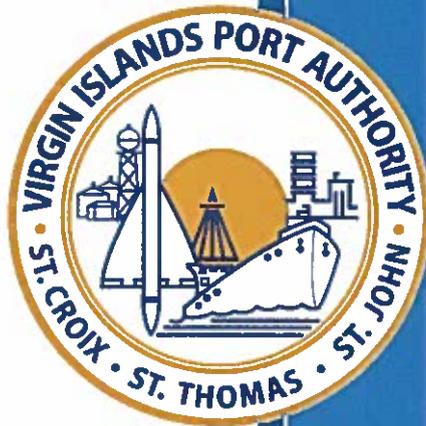


**Virgin Islands Port Authority Testimony
to the 31st Legislature of the US Virgin Islands
Regarding Bill No. 31-0076**



June 4, 2015

Virgin Islands Port Authority ~ Gateways to the USVI Economy

Virgin Islands Port Authority
P.O. Box 301707
St. Thomas, VI 00803-1707
Tel: (340) 774-1629 Fax: (340) 774-0025
www.viport.com

**To the Honorable Senator Janette Millin Young
Chairperson, Economic Development, Agriculture and Planning Committee
31st Legislature of the US Virgin Islands**

**SUBMITTED BY CARLTON DOWE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS PORT AUTHORITY
JUNE 4, 2015**

Good day Honorable Senator Janette Millin Young, all Senators of the 31st Legislature of the US Virgin Islands, and to the listening and viewing audience. I am Carlton Dowe, the Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Port Authority. The VI Port Authority is a semi-autonomous government agency which owns, maintains and is responsible for the future development of the majority of public seaports and both airports in the United States Virgin Islands.

I am here today to offer testimony regarding **Bill No. 31-0076**, an act directing the VI Department of Tourism, in collaboration with the VI Economic Development Authority, to promote the island of St. Croix to those visiting St. Thomas and St. John, and for other purposes. A provision of this bill will require display advertisements promoting St. Croix to be placed at VIPA's airport and seaport terminals. The VI Port Authority supports this proposal to focus marketing funds to promote St. Croix, which will hopefully inspire visitors to St. Thomas and St. John to visit St. Croix as well. Increased tourist visits to the island will improve the island's economy and provide much needed traffic for the tourism-related businesses on St. Croix.

However we do have two concerns. The VI Port Authority must reserve the right to review and approve the content of the advertisements to be placed at our airport and marine terminals, and to decide where such marketing material will be placed in the terminals. VIPA also must consider the terms of the contracts with our existing display advertising concessionaires at our terminals. We cannot violate any previously negotiated terms of these agreements. Once these issues are properly addressed, we will be willing to work with the Department of Tourism and the VI Economic Development Authority to meet the requirements of Bill No. 31-0076.

I am available to answer any questions relative to this bill, or the abovementioned concerns stated.