



VIRGIN ISLANDS PORT AUTHORITY

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P. O. BOX 301707

ST. THOMAS, USVI 00803-1707

May 18, 2015

The Honorable Senator Neville James
President of the 31st Legislature of the US Virgin Islands
Legislature of the Virgin Islands
1 Lagoon Street Complex
Frederiksted, St. Croix 00840

Dear President James:

I received your invitation to attend a hearing before the 31st Legislature's Committee on a Whole to present information regarding the Virgin Islands Port Authority's permit to dredge the Schooner Bay Channel in Gallows Bay, as well as our application to make significant structural repairs to the apron and shoreline of the Svend Ovesen Seaplane Terminal in Christiansted, St. Croix. Please accept my apologies for being absent at today's hearing as I am currently out of the territory attending my daughter's graduation from law school. Mr. Damian Cartwright is our senior engineer and will represent me at today's hearing. Mr. Cartwright will be able to provide answers to any questions you might have regarding both permit applications and provide the details of each project. He will be accompanied by our Assistant Executive Director, Mr. David Mapp who is also available for any related questions that you may have.

Please allow me to highlight the importance of the two permit applications from the VI Port Authority that are currently before this body for approval. The dredging of Schooner Bay is key to revitalizing the marine industry in Christiansted and will allow small cruise vessels to berth in Gallows Bay. It will also allow us to move forward with separating the cargo operations from the passenger facility in Gallows Bay. This will enhance the travelling public's experience.

The repair of the apron at St. Croix's only seaplane terminal is critical to the safety and aesthetics of this key port of inter-island and inter-Caribbean transportation. Both projects will provide jobs for the residents of our community, and will also improve our port infrastructure, our tourism product and the economy of the US Virgin Islands.

These permits were thoroughly discussed at a meeting with this body back February. The time has now come for us to further progress this project. I look forward to your favorable consideration and approval of both permits. Thank you for your time and usual attention to the matters concerning the VI Port Authority.

Sincerely,



Carlton Dowe, Executive Director
Virgin Islands Port Authority