



The Honorable
Justin Harrigan, Sr.
Legislature of the Virgin Islands

May 18, 2016

Dear Senator Harrigan:

On behalf of the more than 400 family members of the St. Thomas Yacht Club, I am writing to offer our comments to legislation proposed by Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr. to increase boat mooring fees paid to the Department of Planning and Natural Resources. Presently, all boats, regardless of type of use, pay the same rate of \$5 per foot. Senator Francis' bill would establish fees up to \$20 per foot based on the length of the vessel and type of use. It also establishes vessel anchoring fees.

The St. Thomas Yacht Club collects all mooring fees for boats in its mooring field and pays all of these fees to DPNR. The STYC also monitors the registration of boats by members of the STYC, and maintains the moorings. No services are provided by DPNR, and DPNR has no costs.

There is no justification for any increase in these fees. No services are provided by DPNR Enforcement to the marine community. The DPNR Enforcement division is more than adequately funded by the 'Federal Boating Safety Grant'. The totals of these grants is published on the USCG web page. Since 1999 DPNR has received almost \$6,000,000 to support Boating Safety activities.

We respectfully urge the Senate to vote down the bill.

Very truly yours,

Dan Nicolosi, Commodore