

Mr. Joseph Noel  
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To the Committee on Government Services, Consumer and Veteran Affairs,

My name is Joseph Noel, and I am the Project and Operations Manager for Broadband VI. Broadband VI is a U.S. Virgin Islands LLC owned and operated by U.S. Virgin Islands. We have been offering high speed Internet to the Virgin Islands for over 10 years, servicing over 7,000 businesses, organizations, government office, and local residents.

Broadband VI is in support of Bill No. 31-0026 - An Act amending title 27 Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 7, in regards to sections of the Trades and Crafts Code. This bill proposes the creation of a Fiber Optic Installers Licensing Board.

Currently, Broadband VI is in the planning stages of deploying fiber to the premise (FTTP) throughout St. Croix, St. Thomas, St. John, and Water Island. As the company moves forward with the project, there will be a need for qualified and skilled fiber optic workers. This bill will assist with ensuring that the people hired for the job are competent to install and maintain a fiber optic network. It allows supports and encourages the hiring of local Virgin Islands, who can perform the same job responsibilities as any stateside or other person in the world.

In using local Virgin Islands, that are certified by a National/Global certifying body, it protects the local Government's multimillion dollar investment from damage. It also ensures that the same level of security and quality of work is engraved into viNGN as well as Broadband VI's future fiber optic network.

I'd like to thank the committee for taking the time out of their schedule for the opportunity to speak today. If anyone has any further questions, I can be reached via email at [joseph@broadband.vi](mailto:joseph@broadband.vi) or via phone at 340-719-2943 extension 122.

Thank you,

Joseph Noel