



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Cyril E. King Airport Terminal Building, 2nd Floor
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

**PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
SERVICES, VETERANS, AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

**Bill Number 31-0061 An Act amending Title 29 of the VI Code, Chapter 9, by
amending Section 506(a) to increase the fees regulating billboards**

Good day, Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr., Chairman of the Committee on Government Services, Consumer and Veterans Affairs, distinguished members of the Committee, and 31st Legislature present, and to the listening and viewing Public. My name is David Brewer and I am the Senior Archaeologist for the Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office. The Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office, which is also known by its acronym VISHPO, is a Division within the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR). I am present today to offer testimony on Bill Number 31-0061 An Act amending Title 29 of the VI Code, Chapter 9, by amending Section 506(a) to increase the fees regulating billboards. The Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office is mandated by both federal and territorial laws seeks to protect and preserve Prehistoric and Historic resources of the United States Virgin Islands.

Commissioner Henry of DPNR has noted that the Commissioner of Public Works has jurisdiction over this issue. She also noticed that the State Historic Preservation Commission also has a role, as opposed to the Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office, and did not see where DPNR is included in the statute.

In regard to any possible involvement of the Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office, our only major concern regarding this issue, which Acting Director Sean Krigger asked me to address, is prior to the installation of large billboard posts and bollards that may occur in historical or archaeologically-sensitive areas where there may be significant cultural resources. In those cases, we would probably recommend monitoring. If there were a large number of posts to be places, we would recommend archaeological survey of the proposed areas.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide this background information for the Committee's consideration; I remain available to answer any questions that you or any of the Committee members may have.