



**TUESDAY,
MARCH 04, 2025
10:00 A.M.**



**EARLE B. OTTLEY
LEGISLATIVE HALL
ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS**



THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RECONVENED - REVISED I

The Committee of the Whole will continue to receive testimony on the economic pressures impacting the cost of living in the U.S. Virgin Islands

Part 3: HIGH FUEL PRICES

- Breakdown of gas pricing (Wholesale vs Retail)
- Impact of global market trends on local gas prices
- Role of transportation and freight costs on price inflation
- Government oversight and regulation of gas pricing
- Potential for renewable energy and alternative fuel solutions

Invited Testifiers:

Kyle Fleming, Director, VI Energy Office

Lawrence Ramdhansingh, President, VI Taxi Association

Kerry Harrigan, Manager, Best Taxi

Allison Petrus, Owner, Petrus Gas

Honorable Nathalie Hodge, Commissioner, VI Department of Licensing & Consumer Affairs

Wayne Biggs, Chief Executive Officer, VI Economic Development Authority

Part 4: SALES TAX vs GROSS RECEIPT TAXES

- Comparative Analysis of sales tax and gross receipt taxes
- Economic Impact on businesses and consumers
- Revenue implications for the government
- Insights from academic and economic experts
- Recommendations for tax reform or adjustments

Invited Testifiers:

Dr. Mark Wenner, Economist

Joel Lee, Director, VI Bureau of Internal Revenue

Julio Rhymer, Director, Office of Management and Budget

Honorable Kevin McCurdy, Commissioner, VI Department of Finance

