



**GOVERNMENT OF  
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES**  
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**VIRGIN ISLANDS BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE**



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**TESTIMONY OF  
DIRECTOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE  
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON  
BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE**

GREETINGS HONORABLE SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.,  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS  
AND FINANCE, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, ALL OTHER SENATORS  
PRESENT, AND THE LISTENING AND VIEWING AUDIENCE. I AM JOEL A.  
LEE, DIRECTOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS BUREAU OF INTERNAL  
REVENUE. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING THE BUREAU TO PRESENT  
TESTIMONY ON BILL NO. 36-0039, AS AMENDED BY AMENDMENT  
NUMBER 36-304.

THIS BILL SEEKS TO INCREASE THE CONTAINER TAXES AS  
FOLLOWS:

FOR CONTAINERS AND FLAT RACKS UP TO 39 FEET – THE  
RATE WILL INCREASE FROM \$50.00 TO \$100.00;

FOR CONTAINERS AND FLAT RACKS THAT MEASURE 40 FEET – THE CONTAINER TAX WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$100 TO \$200.00; AND

FOR FLAT RACK CONTAINERS THAT MEASURE 45 FEET IN LENGTH – THE NEW FEE WILL BE \$205.00.

THE BUREAU REVIEWED LAST THREE YEARS' COLLECTIONS OF THE CONTAINER TAX AND THE AVERAGE CONTAINERS IMPORTED INTO THE TERRITORY WAS:

UNDER 39 FEET - 3,153

40 FEET - 16,322

BASED ON THE AVERAGE IMPORTATION, WE CAN EXPECT THAT THE ANNUAL INCREASE IN REVENUES WILL BE APPROXIMATELY:

UNDER 39 FEET - \$ 157,650.00

40 FEET - \$1,632,200.00

THERE IS NO PRIOR HISTORY ON THE NUMBER OF FLAT BEADS IMPORTED FOR 45 FEET, SINCE THAT CATEGORY DID NOT EXIST PREVIOUSLY.

THIS WOULD PROVIDE THE BUREAU WITH SUFFICIENT LEAD TIME, TO PREPARE THE RETURNS, UPDATE OUR TAX SYSTEM AND EDUCATE THE TAXPAYERS. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ENSURE THAT THIS CAN BE DONE WITHIN THE SIXTY DAY ENACTMENT PERIOD.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE THIS TESTIMONY.