

July 2, 2025

SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.
36TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
Chair, Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance

Dear Senator Francis, Jr.

I present compliments to you and Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr., on behalf of Tropical Shipping. I am Ms. Nisha Aubain, VI Trade Manager. I am unfortunately unable to attend the Hearing on July 10th due to a family emergency off island.

I submit this letter to the Committee on Finance on proposed Bill No. 36-0039 and its accompanying Amendment No.36-304. I ask that it be submitted into the record.

Tropical Shipping understands the intent of this legislation and the accompanying amendment, which seeks to double the import fees for containers and flat racks used to safely transport goods, materials, and supplies to its customers in the Territory.

It is important, however, to note that flat racks and containers are instruments of trade used for the safe carriage of goods and materials on containerized cargo vessels, and they also support the safe delivery of the cargo purchased by the consignees (customers).

Our customers demand quality and timely delivery of cargo transportation services. The upkeep and maintenance of these instruments of trade are costly, and yes, the proposed doubling of the import fees, as proposed by this Bill, would require the shipping lines to recover those increased costs.

Tropical Shipping is an ethically operated company, and we are fair in our business dealings, and we follow the laws of the Territory. Tropical has been a trusted partner in this community and helping to support maintenance of the pristine condition of the Territory is equally important to us because we live and work here as well.

Thank you very much for allowing us to make a statement and we wish the people of the Virgin Islands continued success and growth in its economy.

Respectfully,

Nisha F. Aubain

Nisha Aubain

Cc: Maria Del Mar Rodriguez
Jennifer Nugent-Hill