

March 12, 2025

Honorable Novelle E. Francis, Jr. Senator/Chairman, Committee on Finance 36th Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands Capitol Building, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

Dear Chairman Francis,

The Blue Executive LLC, better known as Best Taxi, strongly supports the lease agreement between the Charles M. Kim VI Foundation/Alpine Securities USVI and the Government of the Virgin Islands for the Hamburg-Amerika Building (Old Legislature Annex) at 48B Norre Gade, St. Thomas.

As a vital part of the transportation sector, the taxi industry plays a significant role in the local economy, supporting tourism—the backbone of St. Thomas' GDP. The Hamburg-Amerika Building sits at a key taxi drop-off location near Emancipation Garden, serving as a gateway for visitors entering our historic downtown. Unfortunately, the building's current state poses a safety risk due to deteriorating infrastructure, with falling debris endangering pedestrians. Its neglect also detracts from the overall appeal of our tourism product.

Approving this lease agreement will allow for much-needed renovations, aligning with recent improvements such as the adjacent public restrooms. A revitalized Hamburg-Amerika Building will enhance visitor experience, support local businesses, and contribute to the long-term economic sustainability of St. Thomas.

We urge the 36th Legislature to approve this lease, taking a crucial step toward restoring the prominence of our historic downtown for future generations.

Respectfully,

Kerry Harrigan

Partner, Blue Executive / Best Taxi Association