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VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance
nfrancis@legvi.org

ST. CROIX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON BILL 36-0083

Dear Chairman Francis:

The St. Croix Chamber of Commerce strongly supports Bill No. 36-0083, which establishes a 90-day amnesty period for the waiver of penalties for payment of outstanding property taxes, income taxes, and gross receipts taxes to assist taxpayers and businesses recovering from the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria and Tropical Storm Ernesto.

It is obvious to every Virgin Islander that the business community has been burdened by crippling inflation and a business unfriendly environment for some time. We have observed small and large business alike – from mom-and-pop shops to big box stores—close their doors to stop the onslaught. Good government necessitates swift and decisive action to offset the economic hardship being felt by all taxpayers, whether they are individuals or businesses. Bill No. 36-0083 does just that: it provides an economic life raft and shot in the arm right when business need it most.

The St. Croix business community applauds Senators Kenneth L. Gittens and Novelle E. Francis, Jr. for the economic leadership and compassion shown by their decision to cosponsor Bill No. 36-0083. It will benefit the business community greatly and should be enacted right away.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Akeel St. Jean

Akeel St. Jean, Esq.
Chairman