

SVB 155 SPRING LLC
D/B/A Independent Boatyard & Marina
6249 Estate Frydenhoj #49
St Thomas, USVI 00802

Testimony of Dimitri (Jim) Kellogg, Vice President and General Manager of Independent Boat Yard

Respectfully submitted:

Good Morning Senate President Francis, Senators, and staff. I appreciate the opportunity to be here with you today to provide testimony on CZM Permit OLC No. 3309-2022 CZT-3-20. My name is Dimitri (Jim) Kellogg, and I am the General Manager of Independent Boat Yard and Marina (hereafter "IBY").

For those of you that are not familiar with our facility, Independent Boatyard and Marina is a large boatyard repair center located near Red Hook on St Thomas. In addition to its boatyard, IBY also operates a 93 slip Marina. The IBY facility is equipped with a 35 ton crane, a 50 ton Travel Lift and 35 ton yard trailer.

The permit that we are requesting you renew covers the existing operations, and also includes the provision that was approved in a prior modification to the permit allowing the construction of a boat ramp which will enable IBY to haul catamarans out of the water. A facility of this kind, one which can haul out catamarans, is extremely important to the St. Thomas and the VI economy and that importance of that cannot be understated.

The number of bareboat and charter companies in the U.S. Virgin Islands exploded during the pandemic, and fortunately for the USVI, has continued to grow. Before our approval for the new haul out ramp, most of those catamarans, if not all, left the territory for neighboring islands, when they needed any work done that required a haul out. There is only one facility in St. Thomas that could haul catamarans in the 40 to 55 foot range, but they specialize mostly in hauling larger commercial vessels and megayachts. So, all of the money that would have otherwise stayed in the USVI, went to the BVI in large part, because we didn't have enough facilities here to handle the work. We anticipate that the ramp should be completed this summer, and this will provide St. Thomas with an opportunity to compete for the haul-out business that is currently forced to go elsewhere.

In addition to the positive financial impact that IBY will have as a result of this completed ramp, IBY is one of a few facilities that provides protection to the USVI boating population during adverse weather events. IBY is located in a hurricane hole, namely Benner Bay. IBY has 93 boat slips and space for approximately 85 vessels on the hard (i.e. hauled out on land) during hurricane season. The capacity to store 175 vessels (slips and on the hard) is a major relief for those 178 boat owners during hurricane season. Because we are located in a hurricane hole in Benner Bay, IBY and our sister marina (Compass Point Marina Inc) are the only two marinas, to our knowledge, in

St. Thomas that are insured to allow for vessels to remain in their slips during storms/hurricanes, providing they execute our 10 line hurricane tie off plan.

Finally, IBY is one of few facilities on island that offers space for do-it-yourself boat owners. For those who wish to use their own labor to keep repair costs down, IBY is providing a great service to the community.

Thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Dimitri A Kellogg
General Manager & Vice President