



To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Gabe Baskin and I am a Masters of Public Policy student at the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy concentrating in the economics of developing countries. Since May, I have worked in St. Croix as a fellow with the UVI Research and Development Park (RTPark). After meeting Steve Baker, visiting his property, and reviewing his economic development plans, I fully endorse his initiative and encourage you to expeditiously approve his project.

Mr. Baker's economic development plan for the Grange property will create a myriad of immediate economic dividends for the Virgin Islands. First, Mr. Baker's plans will allow him to expand his business, creating many well-paying jobs on St. Croix. His initiative will also support these employees by providing critically needed housing on St. Croix.

Mr. Baker's plans to grow and sell local greens will also provide a public good. Given that the Islands import approximately 98% of its food, Mr. Baker's affordable, fresh, and nutrient-rich vegetables will greatly benefit St. Croix's residents. The agricultural component also has the potential to employ additional residents.

Mr. Baker's event venue will also serve a significant community need. Currently, St. Croix only has two indoor, private event venues on the island: the Buccaneer and UVI's 64 West building. The Grange property will add a third key location to service government agencies, nonprofits, and private company needs. Additionally, the launch of the event space will allow local residents to access an important historical site.

Mr. Baker's prior and current work in the public and private sectors and strong reputation in St. Croix give me great confidence that he can successfully implement his visionary economic development plan, creating many benefits for the community.

Sincerely,

Gabe Baskin

Masters of Public Policy Candidate 2024

