



October 15, 2024

Hon. Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Senate President
35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
3022 Estate Golden Rock
Christiansted, VI 00820

Dear Senator Francis,

On behalf of Our Town Frederiksted, I am writing to express our support for the proposed legislation allowing cruise ships to operate their casinos while berthed in St. Croix. I believe this bill aligns with our ongoing commitment to foster economic growth and revitalize the Frederiksted community.

This proposal demonstrates increasing confidence in St. Croix as a tourism destination. Despite being in the height of the hurricane season, St. Croix has continued to welcome at least one cruise ship each week. The cruise industry recognizes St. Croix as a viable expansion destination. In turn, we hope this legislation will further signal our commitment to partnering with the industry to enhance our island's tourism offerings.

Our understanding is that this is not a casino bill and is not meant to impact the St. Croix casino industry or to generate revenue from onboard casino activities of cruise lines. Instead, the intent of the legislation is to strengthen the investment the Virgin Islands has made in the St. Croix cruise industry by encouraging more visits and longer stays. To that end, we hope this bill will empower our entrepreneurs and small businesses to continue to invest in St. Croix.

Our Town Frederiksted appreciates any initiative that positively promotes the island of St. Croix. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to seeing this proposal take shape.

Sincerely,



Shomari Moorehead
President, Our Town Frederiksted

