



Message from the Hon. Jose A. Corcino Acevedo, Mayor of the Municipality of Vieques Charting a Future of Union: The resumption of the flights of Vieques and St. Croix.

5 of October of 2023

Honorable legislature of St. Croix,

On behalf of the residents of the island municipality of Vieques, send you a cordial greeting and we express our gratitude for the invitation you have extended to us. We greatly appreciate the interest you have shown in strengthen the historic relationship that unites the island of St. Croix with Vieques. This relationship has deep historical roots. Long before direct flights were established between our islands, there was already a bond of Brotherhood and family.

In difficult times in Vieques, when the local economy faced challenges and the scarcity of jobs was a reality, many of our residents they emigrated to St. Croix in search of better economic opportunities. This migration gave rise to a community of Puerto Ricans that, to it long of the years, ha kept alive their culture, customs and traditions.

In 1968, the line aerial Vieques air Link started to offer flights between both islands, becoming an essential link to keep together families who had been separated for so long. Unfortunately, over time, these flights stopped operating for reasons unknown to us. However, we recently received word that Fly the Whale airline is interested in resume the trips between our islands. This us full of hope, as it will allow families that have not seen each other for years to have the opportunity to reunite a time further. Also, I please inform them that he Antonio Rivera airport Rodriguez of the island municipality of Vieques, this experimenting important improvements, with an investment of more than 15 million dollars in both the terminal and the landing strip. We will also have Customs and Border Protection Offices United States in the terminal, which will facilitate travel between our islands.

Vieques has a lot that offer to our siblings residents of St. Croix, and I am pleased to share that we are about to start the construction of a hospital with an investment of more of 85 million dollars. This we would allow having a center health of first category where patients of our island can receive treatment locally. I am convinced of that the resumption of Travel between both islands will bring significant benefits to our communities and will contribute to the economic development of both islands.

We appreciate your interest and support in this initiative that will strengthen the ties between Vieques and St. Croix .

Thank you by his attention and consideration.