

Good Day, Honorable Members of the Senate:

I am Akil Petersen, the Chairman of the St. Thomas-St. John Historical Preservation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on the proposed Bill# 35-0202.

Allow me to underscore the significance of our cultural heritage, traditions, and history which weave the unique fabric of our Virgin Islands in a Caribbean adorned with turquoise waters and sunny skies. In a world shrinking with advancing technology, our committee stands as a guardian against the corrosion of what defines us.

As the Caribbean evolves, the role of historical preservation becomes increasingly pivotal. I implore you to reconsider the profound impact of supporting our mission, for in the preservation of our cultural tapestry, we secure a legacy for generations to come.

I trust my testimony today will foster a more nuanced understanding of the invaluable role our committee plays and the invitation for a dialogue for reconsideration on the proposed bill.