The Honorable Senator Javan E. James

Chairperson, Economic Development & Agriculture Committee

Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands

November 10, 2024

Good afternoon, Senator James, Chairperson of the Economic Development and Agriculture Committee, other distinguished Senators, and everyone else in attendance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony on the St. John Marina project. My name is David Marsh. I am the President of Calvert Marsh, Inc., and a proud owner within the Summers End Group, LLC, developers of the St. John Marina through our family’s company.

My late father, Calvert Marsh, often spoke of having our property on the shoreline of Coral Harbor to serve as the heart of a marina in Coral Bay for the island of St. John. The late Honorable Robert “Bob” O’Connor and my father were very close friends. Hence, Mr. O’Connor worked tirelessly with our family to help bring my father’s dream to fruition. While some may remember Mr. O’Connor as a Senator or Chair of the VI Port Authority Board, I remember him as my mentor and father figure. He has guided my mother and me on personal and business matters, and we are grateful.

Mr. O’Connor introduced us to Chaliese Summers, Rick Barksdale, and the Summers End Group. Today, his heirs have joined my family and me as owners of The Summers End Group, LLC. For over 10 years, I have worked with Chaliese Summers, Rick Barksdale, and the late “Bob” O’Connor, helping to shape my father’s vision of a marina in Coral Bay. Concurrently, The Summers End Group has supported my family and me in preserving my family’s legacy and heritage by continuously working on completing a marina project in Coral Bay, which we thought we would have seen by now.

My eldest son, Davon Marsh, a former Coast Guardsman in the United States Coast Guard, has made it abundantly clear to me that he hopes to one day return to St. John to be a part of the St. John Marina’s revitalization of the recreational marine industry. One thing that excites me the most about the St. John Marina is knowing that our local people will have an opportunity to gain meaningful employment and entrepreneurial opportunities on St. John. I am regularly approached by community members expressing their interest in pursuing a business venture within or affiliated with the marine industry. Ultimately, Coral Harbor will be cleaner and safer.

In closing, I would like to thank the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, Governor Albert Bryan, and permitting authorities for supporting sustainable economic development for St. John and the territory. Through your efforts, we will continue to build an economy that attracts young people who see themselves succeeding at home and helps eliminate the export of our best and brightest.

In gratitude,

David Marsh

President

Calvert Marsh, Inc.