



WE MEASURE OUR SUCCESS BY OUR CLIENT'S RESULTS.

November 10, 2024

Via first – Class Mail and e-mail to [senatorjames@legvi.org](mailto:senatorjames@legvi.org)

Hon. Senator Javan E James, Sr  
Chairman, Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture  
Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands  
Capital Building Charlotte Amalie  
P.O. Box 1690  
St Thomas, Virgin Islands 00804

Re: The Summers End Group, LLC

Dear Senator James:

I have been asked to give testimony today on the proposed Marina on St John USVI and more specifically the Summers End Group LLC Project

My name is Jeff Boyd, and I have served the Summers End group for more than a decade now preparing the design and specifications for the proposed facility. My background in Marinas and Marina Development spans 35 + years and includes such projects as Yacht Haven Grande in St Thomas where I originally served as the consultant and designer of the marina of record and later became Chief Operating Officer of Island Global Yachting the Parent company. Other accomplishments include the Yacht Club at Isle de Sol, and the Yacht club at Port De Plaisance both in St Maarten. My work has taken me to throughout the United States and as far off as Dubai where I prepared the initial design for many of their Maritime projects. As St Maarten is my home, I consider my expertise best utilized when working in the Eastern Caribbean where I have spent the last 35 years.

#### **Impact of Marinas on Caribbean Communities**

The establishment of marinas such as the St. John Marina creates significant opportunities for local communities across the Caribbean. In our own operations in St. Maarten, all of our team members are locals, allowing us to build a workforce that truly represents the community and benefits directly from the economic growth we contribute to the region. The same model is easily replicated on St. John (STJ), where local hiring practices could generate meaningful employment, skills training, and sustainable career paths. This approach does not just add economic value; it strengthens ties within the community and builds local pride in the marina and recreational boating industry.

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Additionally, marinas stimulate the local economy by encouraging tourism, with yacht visitors and boat owners who bring spending in hospitality, dining, and retail, directly benefiting local businesses. They often create auxiliary service opportunities, such as maintenance, fueling, and provisioning services, all of which can be locally staffed and managed. Overall, the introduction of a marina like the St. John Marina can have a transformative impact on the surrounding community, just as we have seen in other Caribbean locales.

### Condition of the Recreational Boating Industry

The recreational boating industry is currently facing both opportunities and challenges:

1. **Shortage of Slips:** There is a notable shortage of available slips across the Caribbean, driven by increased demand from both local and international boaters. This shortage restricts access to our shores and diminishes potential tourism revenue. The St. John Marina, therefore, presents a highly attractive solution to address this need.
2. **Growing Number of Vessels:** The rise in recreational boating, combined with an increasing number of vessels being manufactured, has further stressed available marina space. The St. John Marina stands ready to accommodate this growth, ensuring that boaters have access to modern, fully equipped facilities in the Virgin Islands.
3. **Refit and Modernization:** As we are seeing in marinas across the region, facilities are being refitted and upgraded to meet contemporary standards, providing a more attractive and efficient experience for vessel owners. The St. John Marina's modern design will offer high-quality amenities that make it an ideal location for both short-term stays and long-term docking.
4. **Desirability of The St. John Marina:** St. John is a preferred destination among yacht owners and captains due to its natural beauty and strategic location. Currently, a high percentage of captains and owners express a desire to visit STJ but refrain due to the limited and "unfriendly" access options available. The St. John Marina will provide this access, attracting more vessels and significantly boosting the local economy. The economic impact of a single yacht visiting the area can be substantial, creating a ripple effect that benefits multiple sectors.

### Positive Working Relationship with Summers End Group

The Summers End Group has proven to be an invaluable partner, consistently demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting local communities and ensuring that native families and residents benefit from the marina's presence. They have been collaborative, transparent, and deeply focused on preserving the natural and cultural integrity of the area. Their approach aligns closely with our values and makes it clear that The St. John Marina will be developed with the best interests of the Virgin Islands at heart.





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## Conclusion

In summary, the Virgin Islands, and specifically St. John, are well-positioned for continued economic growth with the introduction of modern, community-centered infrastructure like St. John Marina. The project is fully ready to proceed, bringing immediate and long-lasting benefits to both the recreational boating industry and residents.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeff Boyd, Chairman  
Marine Management and Consulting NV.

