



October 9, 2024

RE: Bill 35-0257

Dear Senator Capehart:

Leatherback Brewing Company has worked hard and is deeply committed to making excellent craft beer and other ready-to-drink products and to celebrate and steward Caribbean life.

Our US Virgin Islands' company is exporting to and growing in markets around the region and east coast of the United States. The excellent quality of our products, careful and authentic branding, and endless motivation to positively support the communities we work in, have helped our company grow in sales and public appreciation.

We work well with the other breweries and distilleries throughout the USVI and have ongoing collaborations with several. Excellent craft beer and spirits are made in the US Virgin Islands!

Part of what drives the consumer interest and success of these brands are the experiences and engagement provided to the public and in our communities and to our visitors. *A USVI Beer, Wine and Spirits Festival*, as you are supporting with BILL 35-0257, will bring much greater awareness and cohesion to this important and growing industry for the USVI.

We support your efforts and look forward to continued positive growth and appreciation of this industry in the US Virgin Islands.

With appreciation,

Aaron Hutchins
Managing Partner

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