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Honorable Carla J. Joseph  
Senator  
35<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands  
Capitol Building  
St. Thomas, USVI 00802

April 25, 2023

Dear Senator Joseph,

I am writing today in support of Bill No. 30-0016, 'A Resolution honoring and commending the Board of Elections; the Supervisor of Elections, Caroline Fawkes, and the entire Virgin Islands Election System team for their tireless service and contributions to the Virgin Islands community and on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of the Election System of the Virgin Islands' (ESVI).

Firstly, let me commend Senators Angel Bolques, Jr. and yourself for your co-sponsorship of the piece of legislation recognizing the important and necessary work of the ESVI.

Elections and their right and fair conduct are a hallmark of every modern, mature democracy. The ESVI has been entrusted with safeguarding the right to vote in the USVI for 60 years, as commemorated in this Diamond Jubilee year. As a two-term member of the Board of Election and former Board chair I can speak personally to the high level of integrity that underpins the work of the System. No member takes lightly their charge to work collaboratively to conduct free, fair, accessible, secure and transparent elections.

Congratulations to the Ms. Caroline Fawkes and the entire Election System of the Virgin Islands on the occasion of this well-deserved honor.

Warm Regards,

Lorna A.C.Thomas