



COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,  
VETERAN AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
35<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

LED BY **MAURICE WELLS**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF FINANCE

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

EARL B. OTTLEY LEGISLATIVE  
BUILDING

ST. THOMAS, USVI

GOOD AFTERNOON, HONORABLE CARLA J. JOSEPH, CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERAN AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE 35<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE, AND THE LISTENING AND VIEWING AUDIENCE.

I AM MAURICE WELLS, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF BUDGET OPERATIONS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE. REGARDING BILL NO. 35-0285, THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET AGREES WITH COMMENDING BRYAN "BENNY-DEMUS" BOULAI FOR HIS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRIES AS WELL AS AWARDING HIM THE OFFICIAL KEY TO THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS IS UNABLE TO COMMIT TO APPROPRIATING \$10,000 ANNUALLY FOR THE DEMUS FOUNDATION AT THIS TIME. THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT ARE CURRENTLY EXPLORING STRATEGIC METHODS TO MONITOR OUR ECONOMY'S CASH FLOW. GIVEN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE CANNOT ALLOCATE GENERAL FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE. THEREFORE, ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE FOUNDATION IS NOT PRUDENT.

MADAME CHAIRWOMAN, THIS CONCLUDES MY TESTIMONY. I AM AVAILABLE TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, AND OTHER SENATORS PRESENT

THANK YOU.