

TO: The Honorable Marvin A. Blyden, Chairman
Committee on Housing, Transportation & Telecommunications

From: Rhea Hodge,
St. Croix Government Retiree

Date: April 24, 2023

Good morning Senator Marvin A. Blyden, Committee members and everyone present or listening. I am representing the St. Croix Government Retirees to express our concerns about Telecommunications in the Territory.

During our Retirees' meeting on January 17, 2023, we discussed the following issues:

- a. How many solar-powered fields do we have? Where are they located and what area of the population is served by them?
- b. Many of us are disappointed with Liberty V. I. and VIYA. Phone calls are constantly dropped, and internet connections are unreliable. Technical support is frustrating because they are manned in foreign locations by persons who do not have a good command of the English language and their explanations are hard to understand. Isn't technical support available on island?
- c. Because we no longer have land-line phone service, many of us, especially the elderly, have difficulty reaching our family or friends during an emergency.
- d. Is there a Lifeline program for the elderly to use during an emergency?
- e. Education is interrupted too often because of power failures and poor internet services. How many of our schools have functional generators?
- f. When will we see a reduction in our electric bills?

Thank you for this opportunity.