



Cooperative Extension Service

October 12, 2022

Hon. Albert Bryan, Jr.
Governor of the United States Virgin Islands
5047 (21-22) Kongens Gade
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00802-6487

Dear Governor Bryan:

I am pleased to submit this letter of recommendation in support of Mr. Luther Renee's nomination for membership on the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission. I have known Mr. Renee on a professional and social basis for the past twenty-two (22) years. I initially became acquainted with Luther in 2002 when he served in the 25th Legislature of the Virgin Islands and assumed chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Agriculture and Consumer Protection. In my capacity as District Supervisor with the University of the Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Service and Coordinator of the Sustainable Agriculture Program, I frequently engaged Luther regarding initiatives and issues pertinent to the advancement of the agricultural industry. I was impressed with his well-rounded knowledge base, networking abilities, passion for economic and agricultural development, and commitment to the territory's overall progress. As senator and committee chairman he demonstrated commendable leadership, team-building, and problem-solving skills. Furthermore, in addition to supporting proposals and projects proposed by his colleagues to advance the farming and fishing sectors, Senator Renee formulated and championed his own legislation to assist fishermen, farmers, and other agricultural entrepreneurs.

I developed an even deeper appreciation and respect for Luther's professional character and work ethics during our joint tenure at the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture. After being appointed as Commissioner of Agriculture in 2007, I asked Mr. Renee -- without hesitation -- to serve as Assistant Commissioner. My selection of Mr. Renee was based upon his demonstrated vision, performance, and commitment to agricultural development while serving as a senator. During our eight years together at the Department of Agriculture, he demonstrated the highest level of competency, integrity, team spirit, and managerial skills.

As Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Renee also routinely assumed the role of the department's internal mediator to successfully resolve disputes and misunderstanding among the agency's personnel. Consequently, he was highly respected by his peers for his negotiating and inter-personnel skills. As Commissioner, I greatly valued Luther as a genuine friend and a supportive, loyal colleague who pursued every assigned task to completion and with excellence.

In summary, I have absolutely no reservations regarding Mr. Luther Renee's preparedness to serve as an effective member of the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission. Not only is Luther academically prepared, but he has the moral character, leadership ability, team-building skills, tenacity, and commitment to serve as an exemplary member of the commission. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this correspondence please contact me at telephone number (340) 693-1083 or via email at louis.petersen@uvi.edu.

Sincerely,



Louis E. Petersen, Jr. Ph.D.

Assistant Director, St. Thomas/St. John District