

6539 Estate Mandahl
St. Thomas, VI 00802-3410
May 1, 2023

Senator Diane Capehart
Chairperson, Committee on Rules & Judiciary
35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
3022 Estate Golden Rock
Christiansted, Virgin Islands 00820

Dear Senator Capehart:

It is indeed a pleasure and a privilege to be able to wholeheartedly support the nomination of Anna Wallace Francis to the Virgin Islands Territorial Park Board of Trustees for the District of St. Thomas.

I have known Anna for more than 50 years beginning when she and her sister were students in my class at Wayne Aspinall Junior High School. I then met her again as a student at Nazareth Bay High School. The third time I met her was as a neighbor and environmental champion.

I also worked with or knew various members of the Wallace family including Anna's parents and her aunt and found them to be very civic minded and concerned with the Virgin Islands. Anna is no different in that regard. She demonstrated her concerns for these islands through her work as a teacher at Addelita Cancryn Junior High School, initiating a garden project and working with the Environmental Rangers. She has created Camp Umoja at her home in Mandahl and has expressed and demonstrated her love of the environment and concerns for the territory's future development and growth through the many she has nurtured in the classroom and beyond since her retirement as an educator. Although officially retired she has not actually "retired" in that regard. She willingly shares her passion for, and commitment, to the well-being of her home island and for all of the territory. She also shares her knowledge freely and has sponsored a number of environmental and other science projects including star gazing and beach clean-ups, and spoken out on environmental issues.

I am certain that Anna's knowledge of environmental issues, positive energy, ability to work with others, and commitment to the Virgin Islands and its youth will make her an invaluable member of the Territorial Park Board and urge that you speedily confirm her in this position.

Respectfully submitted,



Helene Smollett