

Committee on Rules and Judiciary  
Date: December 12, 2024  
Aubrey L. Ruan Jr.  
St. Croix, Coastal Zone Management Program  
(CZMP)

Good morning, Senator Diane Capehart Chair of the Committee on Rules and Judiciary, other members of the Legislature, present and listening, and the viewing audience.

I am Aubrey Lionel Ruan Jr., and I am grateful for the opportunity to be considered for this position as well as the opportunity to serve the people of the Territory of the Virgin Islands. I would first like to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for being such an awesome God to me. Secondly, I would like to thank Governor Albert Bryan for his endorsement and nomination. Next, I would like to thank my family and friends who have supported me my entire life. Lastly, I would like to thank the men and women of the Virgin Island National Guard who have challenged, supported, and shaped me into the leader I am today. In particular, I take this opportunity to recognize my very good friend and comrade LTC David Canegata III, who lost his life in Iraq, but his memory still motivates me today to give back to the Territory of the Virgin Island and Community of St. Croix. I still believe that the Virgin Islands National Guard, Army and Air, are the best agencies and organizations in the Territory and they provide the best return on the local funds invested in them. I also believe that the Virgin Islands National Guard gives the young people of the Territory a solid opportunity to get an education, learn skills and earn a career for a lifetime.

This is the second time in my life to appear before this body, the first time was in 2003 when Governor Charles Turnbull nominated me to the Virgin Islands Museum and Veterans Memorial Board of Directors. It saddens me to report that nothing was achieved from that appointment.

I have attempted for some time to use my experience as a former Commissioned Officer, Military Engineer, and Licensed Draftsman as well as my current expertise as a Licensed Construction Contractor to assist the Government of the Virgin Islands in any way possible. When I learned that the St. Croix Coastal Zone Management Committee was short on members, I saw an opportunity to give back to the Territory.

I will not attempt to impress you with what I know about the Coastal Zone Management Commission Program or what it does, other than the fact that it ensures compliance with the various Sections of the VI Code. I will, however, tell you that if selected I will make myself fully familiar with what is required of me as a committee member and do my very best not only to contribute but to recommend ways to improve the program as a whole.

I would like to thank the 35th Legislature for considering my nomination and I look forward, if selected, to working with the other existing members of the committee and attempt to make a difference for the people of the Territory and for the island of St. Croix. Many of you Senators who presently serve in this legislature know me personally and some of you know of me from my time spent serving in the VI Army National Guard. Those of you that know me are aware that I am an independent thinker, that is very mission driven and motivated towards working with others. However, I don't totally agree with the idea of "going along to get along" when issues go against what is illegal, immoral or unethical, I stand on the standards and what is Right. I also want you to know that I will not work on Friday evenings or on Saturdays due to my commitment to keep God's Commandment to honor His Holy Sabbath. I provide this information about myself, so that you know where I stand and what I represent before giving me your vote of endorsement.

Again, I say thank you for the opportunity to serve.