



January 22nd, 2024

Honorable Diane T. Capehart, Committee of Rules and Judiciary, Chair
Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Capitol Building
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

Subject: Testimony in Support of Maurice K. Muia's Nomination to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Board

Dear Ms. Chairwoman,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the nomination of Mr. Maurice K. Muia to the Board of Directors of the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority. Maurice's dedication to sustainable energy in the Virgin Islands is a rare and invaluable asset that we cannot afford to overlook; instead, we must wholeheartedly embrace it.

My association with Maurice dates to the early 2000s when, through senior VIWAPA staff, he was exploring summer internship opportunities. It was evident from the outset that he possessed the potential to make significant contributions to the energy sector in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Following his graduation, Maurice returned to the Virgin Islands, working diligently at the Virgin Islands Energy Office under the guidance of Bevan Smith. His tireless efforts extended across VIWAPA, the USDOE, Government House, PSC, and, most importantly, to the people of the Virgin Islands, striving to bring optimal solutions for power generation and the efficient transmission and distribution of power throughout the territory.

Our connection endured through various significant events in life. When Hurricane Irma wreaked havoc in the Virgin Islands, Maurice actively sought ways for engineers stateside to contribute to the recovery. Even while working at Ameren in St. Louis, MO, he provided invaluable counsel to executives before they dispatched mutual aid to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. This demonstrated Maurice's unwavering commitment to the Virgin Islands, irrespective of his geographical location.

Prior to his nomination by Governor Bryan, Maurice sought my counsel to gain deeper insights into the true needs of VIWAPA, the persistence of certain challenges, and, most importantly, whether he was up to the task. Having interacted with him for decades, I am confident that Maurice is the ideal candidate for the Board of Directors. His leadership will undoubtedly enhance the lives of Virgin Islanders and visitors for decades to come through the impactful contributions he will make for the People of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Thank you for your time and commitment in the rebuilding of the Board of Directors for the VI Water and Power Authority, especially with Maurice, whom is a uniquely talented



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nominee. I am more than willing to provide any additional information that may aid in the nomination process.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Hodge, Jr.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hugo V. Hodge, Jr.
President and CEO
HKT Energy Consulting Group, LLC