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September 25, 2023

Honorable Diane T. Capehart
Senator and Chairperson, Rules, and Judiciary
35th Legislature United States Virgin Islands
St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands 00802

Re: Reference in support of May Adams Cornwall serving on the USVI CZM Commission

Dear Senator Capehart;

This letter is submitted in support of Governor Albert Bryan's nomination of May Adams Cornwall to the US Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management Commission as a member of the St. Croix Coastal Zone Management Committee. I have interacted with Ms. Cornwall over the last 18 years, most directly between 2012 and 2016 during my tenure on the VI Waste Management Board, and I believe I am able to present a strong letter of support for her proposed service on the St. Croix Coastal Zone Management Committee. I have known May Cornwall as Director and as a professional engineer in the local and Federal government, and in all instances, she demonstrated a high level of intellectual ability, a keen understanding of the value of community service, a willingness to work at the highest standards, and a compassion for people. It is my honor and pleasure to submit this endorsement of her nomination.

During my tenure on the VIWMA Board and even after she left the position, I was able to see evidence of the type of decision-maker and professional Ms. Cornwall offers her assignments. She demonstrated a balanced understanding of the complexity of the development issues facing the Territory, practiced utilization of planning skills, visionary leadership, recognition of the challenges and opportunities facing the community, a clear commitment to integrity and support for the development of staff, and a desire to improve the USVI as a community. I saw her manage difficult financial and political situations with perception and skill. These are qualities and skills that should support constructive, fair decision-making that meets the requirements of the law and still keeps our community working constructively to improve and thrive, which would be a great support to the Coastal Zone Management Program and the future of the Territory in general.

May Adams Cornwall is a well-educated, strong professional engineer with the leadership, technical, and management experience and skills to support constructive deliberations and decision-making by the Coastal Zone Management Commission that meet the standard of law as well as the need to see decisions within the context of rational short through long-term development goals. I am pleased to support the nomination of Ms. May Adams Cornwall to the USVI Coastal Zone Management Commission as a member of the St. Croix Coastal Zone Management Committee without reservation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

LaVerne E. Ragster, Ph.D.
Professor (Retired) and President Emerita