



COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & AGRICULTURE

AGENDA

REVISED I

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TO: Members, Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture

The Honorable Angel L. Bolques, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Marvin A. Blyden
The Honorable Alma Francis Heyliger
The Honorable Marise C. James, Esq.
The Honorable Franklin D. Johnson
The Honorable Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.

FROM: The Honorable Senator Hubert L. Frederick
Chairman, Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture
36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

DATE: December 23, 2025

RE: **January 14, 2026**- Committee on Economic
Development and Agriculture Meeting

The Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture has scheduled a meeting for **Wednesday, January 14, 2026**, at 10:00 AM in the Frits E. Laweatz Legislative Conference Room, St. Croix, Virgin Islands to provide testimony on the following:

BLOCK I – 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

The Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture will receive testimony from the West Indian Company, Ltd (WICO) on the following:

- Overview of WICO's current financial status, including key revenue streams, operational challenges, and financial performance indicators.
- Status of WICO's Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) debt, including total amount owed, repayment plans, and impacts on financial operations.
- Leadership transition plan, including succession planning, timeline, and measures to ensure organizational continuity and stability.
- Update on infrastructure and berthing capacity improvements, specifically addressing timelines for planned dredging and facility enhancements.
- Strategic collaborations and partnerships with government agencies, private entities, and other stakeholders to strengthen economic contributions.

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Invited Testifier:

- Joseph B. Boschulte, President/CEO,
West Indies Company, Ltd (WICO)

LUNCH BREAK 12:00 PM TO 12:30 PM

BLOCK II - 12:30 PM TO 2:30 PM

The Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture will receive testimony on the following Bill:

Bill No. 36-0194 - An act urging the United States Congress and the Office of the United States Trade Representative to expand and modernize the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) to further support economic growth and development in the Virgin Islands and the wider Caribbean region. ***Sponsored by Senator Angel Bolques, Jr.***

Invited Testifiers:

- Dr. Kendra L. Harris, Dean of School of Business
University of the Virgin Islands
- Sandra L. Setorie, Executive Director
Virgin Islands Public Services Commission
- Dr. Haldane Davies, Director,
Virgin Islands Bureau of Economic Research
- Eric Sonnier, Executive Director
University of the Virgin Islands Research and Technology Park
- Damie Sinanan, Executive Director
Caribbean Export Development Agency
- Valerie Henry, Program Officer
Caribbean Export Development Agency
- Vanessa Ledesma, Representative
Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association



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- Dr. Justin Ram, CEO
Justin Ram Advisory
- Dr. Didacus Jules, Director General
Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

Cc: All Senators
All Chiefs of Staff
All Divisions
Public Affairs