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U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism
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February 9, 2026

The Honorable Senator Avery Lewis
Thirty (36th) Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Capitol Building
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

**Re: Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection
Bill No. 36-0225:Honoring Sharon Maria Williams**

Good morning, Chairman of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection, the Honorable Senator Avery L. Lewis; distinguished members of the Committee; Senators of the 36th Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands; legislative staff; members of the media; and the listening and viewing public.

Pursuant to your invitation, on behalf of the Department of Tourism, we are pleased to provide testimony regarding Bill No. 36-0225, honoring Sharon Maria Williams.

Food is undeniably a cornerstone of our culture here in the Virgin Islands, and dedicated stewards of the culinary tradition, such as Ms. Sharon Maria Williams, play a vital role in preserving and celebrating our heritage. From nourishing families and neighbors to welcoming visiting guests, the use of food to tell our story enriches the Virgin Islands experience. Through these authentic expressions of culture, our islands have earned recognition as a premier culinary destination rooted in the richness of our local purveyors and traditions.

It is an honor to support the recognition of Ms. Williams, and we thank her for her commitment to preserving, uplifting, and strengthening our community through the power of food.