

May 27, 2025

Honorable Avery L. Lewis
Chairman
Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection
35-38 Kronprindsens Gade
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00801

RE: Invitation to Testify – Bill NO. 36-0053

Dear Senator Lewis,

Thank you for your letter dated May 22, 2025, inviting me to provide testimony before the 36th Legislature on Bill No. 36-0053, scheduled for Friday, May 30, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall in St. Thomas.

While I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this important legislative matter, I must respectfully decline the invitation. In correspondence dated January 13, 2025, to Senate President Milton E. Potter, Government House requested that all invitations for testimony from executive branch agencies be submitted at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled hearing date. This guidance is intended to ensure that agencies are afforded adequate time to prepare thoughtful, comprehensive, and accurate responses.

As the Division of Personnel received the invitation on May 22, 2025, the notice period does not meet the minimum timeframe requested by Government House.

Should the hearing be rescheduled with the appropriate advance notice, the Division will make every effort to appear and provide the relevant testimony.

Thank you for your understanding. Please feel free to contact my office should you have any questions or require further clarification.

Respectfully,



Cindy L. Richardson