



September 22, 2025

The Honourable Senator Avery Lewis

Chairman, Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection

35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Re: Statement of Support for Bill No. 36-0102 and Apology for Absence

Dear Senator Lewis,

I am writing to extend my sincere apologies for not being able to appear before the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection to provide testimony on **Bill No. 36-0102**.

Due to unavoidable medical obligations, I am unable to attend the hearing in person. However, I would like to express my full support for the proposed legislation, which seeks to amend Title 31, Chapter 23 of the Virgin Islands Code by re-enacting Section 236b. This important bill would require the use of construction materials manufactured in the Virgin Islands, to the greatest extent practicable, for locally and federally funded government contracts.

As the owner of Universal Concrete LLC, a locally owned and operated business, I strongly believe that this bill will play a pivotal role in strengthening the territory's economy by prioritizing the use of our own resources. It encourages investment in local manufacturing, supports job creation, and ensures that public funds contribute directly to the growth and sustainability of Virgin Islands-based industries.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for your continued commitment to the development of policies that uplift our community. I remain available to provide written comments or participate in future discussions on this matter, should the opportunity arise.

With sincere appreciation,

Eric Castro

Owner

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