



## School of Business

April 16, 2026

Chairwoman Carla Joseph  
Committee on Rules and Judiciary  
Thirty-sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands  
US Virgin Islands

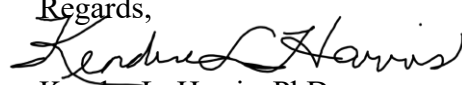
RE: Support of Bill No. 36-0194 - Caribbean Basin Initiative

Dear Chairwoman Joseph:

I am writing to provide a letter of support for Bill No. 36-0194, the Caribbean Basin Initiative. Given the projected GDP for the US Virgin Islands territory, its quasi-remote positioning as an island, and the conventional wisdom of the strength of trade agreements, I support the energy that has been and continues to be invested in the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

As has been acknowledged in the vetting of this initiative, much like any other worthwhile endeavor this initiative has its challenges. That said, the tremendous upside potential that would be manifested in the ongoing investment in this legislation is invaluable. Any endeavor that positions the US Virgin Islands to leverage its resources for the GDP and the economy at large is essential for sustainability. This initiative reflects that fact.

I wish the legislature much success in moving this effort forward.

Regards,  
  
Kendra L. Harris, PhD  
Dean of the School of Business  
University of the Virgin Islands