



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

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October 11, 2023

VIA HAND-DELIVERY

Honorable Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Senate President
Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Capitol Building
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

Re: Nomination of Louis E. Petersen, Jr. – Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with the provisions of Title 3, § 290 of the Virgin Islands Code, I hereby nominate Louis E. Petersen, Jr. as the Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture.

Accordingly, it is my pleasure to ask the advice and consent of the Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands on the nomination of Mr. Petersen. A copy of Mr. Petersen's resume is enclosed for your review. I respectfully urge the Legislature to take timely action to advance this nomination to prevent any delays in the official functions of the Department.

Your prompt and favorable confirmation will enhance the Department of Agriculture's ability to meet its demanding operations and the continued work to serve the people of the United States Virgin Islands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Albert Bryan, Jr.", written over a circular stamp or mark.

Albert Bryan, Jr.
Governor

Enclosure

Cc: Senator Diane T. Capehart
Chair, Committee on Rules and Judiciary

Louis E. Petersen, Jr.
P.O. Box 305782 VDA
St. Thomas
US Virgin Islands 00803-5782

Email: louis.petersen@doa.vi.gov

Home Phone: (340) 775-5745

Cellular Phone: (340) 514-5169

Education

Ph.D. University of Minnesota (1993), Dept. of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Major: Horticulture - Plant Genetics; Minor: Plant Pathology The research studies involved an interdisciplinary approach, including a knowledge of Plant Stress Physiology to screen hybrid populations of Phaseolus (beans) for drought tolerance.

M.S. Oklahoma State University (1983), Dept. of Horticulture, Major: Horticultural Science. Thesis research involved the use of honeybees (Apicultural Science) as a pollinating agent in strawberries production.

B.S. Tuskegee University (1981), Dept. of Plant and Soil Sciences, Major: Plant and Soil Sciences.

Employment

5/2023 – Present: Commissioner Nominee, US Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture

2015 – 4/2023: Assistant Director - St. Thomas/St. John District, University of the Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Service

2015 – 2023: State Coordinator for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program

2015-2023: Co-Director, University of the Virgin Islands AgDiscovery Enrichment Summer Program

2010- 2011: At-Large Member of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Board of Directors

2009 – 2010: President of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture

2008 – 2009: Vice President of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture

2007 – 2008: Recording Secretary of the Southern Association of State

Departments of Agriculture

- 2007 - 2014:** *Commissioner, US Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture*
- 2007 - 2014:** *President, US Virgin Islands Agriculture and Food Fair Board*
- 2007 - 2014:** *Member, Administrative Council of the Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program*
- 1999 - 2007:** *Cooperative Extension Service District Supervisor, University of the Virgin Islands*
- 1999 - 2007:** *USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program State Coordinator, University of the Virgin Islands*
- 2003 - 2006:** *President of the Virgin Islands Resource Conservation and Development Council*
- 2001 - 2003:** *Vice President of the Virgin Islands Resource Conservation and Development Council*
- 1999 - 2001:** *Recording Secretary of the Virgin Islands Resource Conservation and Development Council*
- 1995 - 2016:** *Served as Vice President of the Virgin Islands FFA Association State Advisory Board*
- 1995 - 1999:** *Assistant Commissioner, V.I. Department of Agriculture*
- 1993 - 1995:** *Vice Chair of local chapter of the Caribbean Food Crops Society*
- 1990 - 2019:** *President of the St. Thomas/St. John Agriculture and Food Fair Committee*
- 1991 - 1995:** *USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program State Coordinator, University of the Virgin Islands*
- 1991 - 1995:** *Cooperative Extension Service District Supervisor, University of the Virgin Islands*
- 1989 - 1991:** *Cooperative Extension Service (CES) Extension Agent III, University of the Virgin Islands*