



VIRGIN ISLANDS PORT AUTHORITY

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June 13, 2023

Honorable Novelle E. Francis Jr.
Senate President
35th Legislature of the U. S. Virgin Islands
Capitol Building
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Re: Bill No. 23-0559 – Emerald Beach Minor Coastal Zone DPNR Permit CZT-12-16W

Dear President Francis

I am in receipt of your invitation to testify before Committee of the Whole hearing on at the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas on June 14, 2023. Unfortunately, I am unavailable to testify today due to a scheduling conflict.

As the Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Port Authority, I was invited to testify regarding Bill No. 23-0559 – an Act ratifying the Governor's approval of Minor Coastal Zone Permit CZT-12-16W issued to Emerald Beach Corporation, doing business as Emerald Beach Hotel. The permit is for the installation, use and occupancy of submerged land by three swimming buoys, an AquaBana and a floating dingy dock seaward of Parcel Nos. 70-D-1 and 70-T-1, Estate Lindbergh Bay, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. The term of the permit is 20 years.

The Emerald Beach Hotel is a long-term tenant of the Virgin Islands Port Authority, and the hotel is built on land adjacent to the Cyril E. King Airport that is owned by the Authority. However, the permit referenced in Bill No. 23-0559 is for a seaside development at the hotel. The Authority has no objection to Emerald's Beach proposed seaside attraction. VIPA yields to the decisions made by the USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) to approve this permit. DPNR is the agency with jurisdiction to approve any use of the territory's beaches and submerged lands. Thank you for the opportunity to state our position regarding this development.

Sincerely,

Carlton Dowe

Executive Director, Virgin Islands Port Authority