

RUSSELL CHRISTOPHER

P.O. BOX 9999

ST. CROIX, UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS 00841

July 6, 2023

Senate President Novelle Francis Jr.

Proposed Land Exchange Between the National Park Service and the Government of the Virgin Islands

35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Capitol Building

St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands

Dear Senators

It is apparent that the 35th Legislature needs clarity on the laws concerning land and ownership vs management. There is a degree of unfamiliarity of Law or outright disregard of it. Ignorance of the law exist.

The evidence is this hearing on the attempt to exchange land between the Government of The Virgin Islands of The United States and the National Park Service under the Department of The Interior. There would be no reason for this hearing otherwise. Meaning it should not have gone beyond the foolish statements and documentation signed and presented by Albert Bryan Jr. Was this done in absence of legal counsel? Why mention section 11 of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of 1954? Why not reference sections 7, 31, 33? Did Albert Bryan Jr. and his legal council read the entire Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of 1954? Or did they select the first thing that satisfied their interest? The Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of 1954 being a violation of The Constitution of The United States and International Law. Did the 35th Legislatures'

legal council review the documents and correspondences presented by Albert Bryan Jr. and the National Park System?

Neither the National Park System or the Government of the Virgin Islands of The United States own the land or cay being referenced in this attempted exchange.

If the National Park Service owns the Catherineberg (Hammer's Farm) land they are offering in exchange for Whistling Cay they can be honest and easily bring forth the documents that proves ownership. If they manage Catherineberg (Hammer's Farm) land they can bring forth the documents that shows who they are managing land for. It should be clear to all interested that there is a difference between "owning" and "managing".

To do anything else will be operating under the presumption that fact verifiable documents are not needed but can be replaced with presumptions of them.

Presumption of law has made its way into the fabric of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands and to that end the use of "whereas" has made mockery of the laws you have sworn by oath to abide by. Is this deliberately done to confuse those whom are ignorant of the laws and the process?

It would be most honest, lawful and simple for both the National Park System and Government of the Virgin Islands of The United States to bring forward and present the existing documents, if they exist.

In Peace,

Russell Christopher

Indigenous Ancestral Native Virgin Islander