

STATEMENT OF PETER N. HIEBERT

**In Support of Bill No. 35-0229, an Act Honoring Kenneth E. Mapp,
The Eighth Elected Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands**

My name is Peter N. Hiebert. I am a retired partner at the international law firm of Winston & Strawn LLP, where I practiced law for some 36 years. In the course of my legal career, I had the great privilege of representing many Governors and administrations in the U.S. Virgin Islands, beginning in 1982 and ending with my retirement in January 2020. During this period, I have known and worked closely with the Honorable Kenneth E. Mapp during his service with the Virgin Islands Industrial Development Commission in the Juan Luis administration, his service with the Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority in the Charles Turnbull administration, and as the eighth elected Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

With this background and history, I am pleased to offer my testimony in support of Bill No. 35-0229, an Act honoring Kenneth E. Mapp for his many years of service to the people of the Virgin Islands.

Each of the elected Governors of the Virgin Islands has played a unique and important role in the political, economic, and social development of the Virgin Islands since the enactment of the Elected Governors Act of 1968 by the Congress of the United States. Each of the elected Governors of the Virgin Islands since then has faced unique challenges in the sometimes difficult path toward greater self-government, economic development, and equality under the law for the people of the Virgin Islands in the American constitutional system. Kenneth E. Mapp faithfully stepped up to the challenges the Territory faced during his tenure of service in the Virgin Islands and before. For this and his many accomplishments, he well deserves the honors accorded him by the legislation before this body.

Like so many of his fellow Governors, Kenneth E. Mapp was, and is, a self-made man. Born into a loving and extended Virgin Islands family, Ken spent his early years in Brooklyn, New York, but returned to his beloved St. Croix when he was six years old to live with his maternal grandmother. He was educated in the Virgin Islands public schools and returned to New York to join the New York City Police Department following his graduation from Central High School in 1973. After graduating from the New York City Police Academy and attending New York City Community College, he was recruited by the Virgin Islands Police Department, where he served in several capacities while continuing his education at the University of the Virgin Islands. I mention this because, as is the case with many other self-made men and women, work and education, for Ken, were not exclusive to each other, but rather they were seamlessly integral and connected to each other. And it was this thirst for, and commitment to, education and life-long learning that ultimately led Ken Mapp to Harvard University, where he received a master's degree in public administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government and later a certificate in the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School.

In the course of his career in public service, Ken Mapp served as a police officer working to ensure public safety in the Virgin Islands; as Assistant Director of the Industrial Development Commission, working to protect the jobs of Virgin Islanders in the then-important watch industry and the all-important rum industry from foreign competition; as Senator in the Legislature of the Virgin Islands; and later as Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands in the Dr. Roy L. Schneider administration, where he also served as Commissioner of Insurance and Chairman of the Virgin Islands Banking Board.

In March 2002, Ken Mapp was appointed by Governor Charles W. Turnbull as Director of Finance and Administration of the Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority ("PFA"), where he led

the Government's financial team in raising millions of dollars from the capital markets for essential capital projects and public improvements in the Territory. In getting long-delayed projects off the drawing boards and shovels into the ground, Ken Mapp employed the technical and financial skills he gained at Harvard, as well as the practical leadership skills he learned in the course of his long public service in the Virgin Islands. The Virgin Islands was vastly bettered as a result of his tenure at the PFA.

Ken Mapp's career in public service was capstoned when he became the eighth elected Governor of the Virgin Islands in November 2014. Upon taking office in January 2015, Governor Mapp inherited the complex challenge of finding a solution to the serious economic dislocations caused by the shutdown of the HOVENSA oil refinery, the suspension of guaranteed annual payments by HOVENSA to the Territory, and cross-claims made by the parties totaling hundreds of millions of dollars. In the ensuing highly charged litigation, Governor Mapp led the Government's effort to negotiate a favorable settlement of the competing claims among multiple parties, which ultimately led to a creative revenue-sharing agreement with new owners to authorize the operation of an oil-storage-terminal business and to pursue the restart of idled oil refinery operations. Governor Mapp's leadership was also on full display during the aftermath of two of the most destructive hurricanes in the history of the Virgin Islands—Hurricanes Irma and Maria. His regular radio addresses were a calming influence on the people of the Virgin Islands, and his leadership and personal interactions with FEMA, the President of the United States, and the U.S. Congress, as well as private-sector partners, led to the infusion of billions of dollars in federal and private funds that facilitated and accelerated the Territory's recovery.

While this is not meant to be a recitation of all of Ken Mapp's achievements in office or in life, it is meant to give a flavor of his growth as a leader and his commitment to public service and

the well-being of the people of the Virgin Islands. I would be remiss if I did not also mention that Ken Mapp experienced losses as well as successes in his public life—including losses both before and after his tenure in office. But I am also reminded of the immortal words of President Theodore Roosevelt in his discourse on “Citizenship in a Republic”, a speech delivered at the Sorbonne in Paris on April 23, 1910:

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred with dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

Kenneth Ezra Mapp is such a man: he has known the triumph of high achievement, and if he has ever failed, he has done so while daring greatly. He is the epitome of Roosevelt’s Man in the Arena. He is the epitome of the self-made man and the selfless public servant. He is immensely worthy of the honor bestowed in the legislation before you. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter N. Hiebert

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