



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

**Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001**

October 25, 2018

VIA MESSENGER

The Honorable Myron D. Jackson
Senate President
Thirty Second Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Capitol Building
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Re: Proposed Legislation to appropriate \$10,000,000.00 from the General Fund to the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority to pay outstanding obligations to waste haulers and other vendor payments, and \$5,000,000.00 from the General Fund to the Department of Finance for the payment of additional outstanding income tax refunds for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed for the Thirty-Second Legislature's consideration is a bill to appropriate \$10,000,000.00 to the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority ("the VIWMA") to pay outstanding obligations to waste haulers and other vendor payments, and \$5,000,000.00 from the General Fund to the Department of Finance for the payment of additional outstanding income tax refunds for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

As you know, on October 1, 2018, I approved Bill No. 32-0290 (Act No. 8085) which appropriated the total sum of \$25,393,750.00 to the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority which included \$4,000,000.00 to be used solely for the payment of outstanding amounts owed to waste haulers and vendors. The VIWMA continues to struggle with its obligations to its vendors. The Authority advises us that its outstanding payables are now at \$20 million.

The proposed Bill that I have enclosed seeks to appropriate \$10,000,000.00 more to the VIWMA for payments to companies contracted to haul the Territory's solid waste. The protection of the public's health and environment is of paramount importance

Letter from Governor Kenneth E. Mapp to Senate President Myron D. Jackson
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warranting the additional appropriation I am requesting and to ensure that the Territory's solid waste is effectively managed.

My proposed legislation also provides for an additional appropriation of \$5,000,000.00 for the payment of outstanding tax refunds owed to taxpayers. Since taking office in 2015, my Administration has paid \$194,709,448.00 for income tax refunds for tax years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and part of 2016.

Given the growth of our economy and the ongoing reconstruction of our recovery from the two (2) category 5 hurricanes, new revenues continue to flow into the Government's treasury. These new revenues are providing us the opportunity to pay on our obligations to vendors and taxpayers. I ask the Legislature for its speedy consideration and approval of this measure.

Sincerely,



Kenneth E. Mapp
Governor

Enclosure