



# LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Capitol Building P.O. Box 1690 Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Islands 00804

**ADLAH "FONCIE"  
DONASTORG**  
Senator, 28th Legislature

Member, Committees on:

*Financial Services,  
Infrastructure and Consumer  
Affairs*

*Housing, Sports  
and Veterans Affairs*

*Planning and  
Environmental Protection*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 20, 2009**

## **Donastorg addresses environmental group Senator shares concerns about pet coke energy plan**

ST. THOMAS – Senator Adlah “Foncie” Donastorg told members of the St. Croix Environmental Association that he was very concerned about the risks associated with planned facilities to generate electricity by burning a combination of trash and petroleum coke.

Donastorg said that the plan was rushed through without adequate attention to its potential harm to public health and the environment.

“There are too many unanswered questions,” Donastorg said. “We must take time to examine the potential impacts on residents as there will be emissions of metals and carbon dioxide from these facilities. In the age of clean alternative energy sources, I cannot support any plan with the end result of more pollution here in the Virgin Islands.”

The Senator was the guest speaker at the group’s annual meeting held at St. Croix’s Buccaneer Resort.

Donastorg said that despite the Territory’s dire need for a plan to deal with trash and energy problems, we must not rush into something that may compromise our quality of life.

“I sincerely believe that this plan needs much greater scrutiny at all levels,” Donastorg said. “I am not convinced that WAPA ratepayers will benefit from this deal.”

The Senator said that alternative options should continue to be explored.

“I don’t see burning trash and pet coke as being very forward thinking,” Donastorg said.

Donastorg has called for Territory wide public hearings on the potential environmental impacts of the pet coke waste-to-energy facilities.

Donastorg expressed his long standing interest in the environment and thanked SEA members for partnering with him on many issues and supporting his legislation, to include the Clean Water & Clean Air Acts.

The proposed National Heritage Area Designation for St. Croix was also discussed and Donastorg urged residents to demonstrate their support for both the Federal legislation and the local resolution now before the 28<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

Donastorg drafted the resolution in order to send a clear message to the U.S. Congress.

“We must unite in our willingness to protect our natural and cultural resources,” Donastorg said. “This NHA designation recognizes the Virgin Islands as one of the most important historic and ecological sites anywhere in the world. With this designation we greatly enhance our status as a destination and will be granted some assistance in preserving our local culture and environment.”

Donastorg said that no property will be transferred to the Federal Government.

“What Congress is deciding is whether or not to give us this very special label that comes along with some additional funding and technical assistance for our own local preservation and educational projects,” Donastorg said.

He thanked SEA members for the invitation to speak and for their ongoing efforts.