

January 29, 2010

Honorable Donna M. Christensen  
U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate to Congress  
1510 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Proposed Constitution of the United States Virgin Islands

Dear Congresswoman Christensen:

This letter is presented by the undersigned members of the Fifth Constitutional Convention of the Virgin Islands, with respect to the upcoming Congressional review of the Proposed Constitution recently forwarded to President Obama. Enclosed please find a copy of our letter of this date to President Obama, together with a copy of the Proposed Constitution, marked-up to reflect those modifications that we believe are essential before Congress returns the document to the people of the Virgin Islands.

We believe that it is of the utmost importance that the people of the Virgin Islands seize this present opportunity to adopt our own Constitution, consistent with federal law, to more fully attain political autonomy and self-governance. We believe that your leadership throughout the Congressional review process will be essential to its success.

The Constitution to be adopted must be the product of Virgin Islanders. As such, we ask that Congressional amendments and modifications to the Proposed Constitution be limited in scope, to revise or eliminate only those provisions within the Proposed Constitution that are incompatible with the Federal Constitution and laws.

The flaws in the document in need of modification are those several provisions granting special rights and privileges to only certain categories of people. We ask that Congress modify the Proposed Constitution by striking those provisions. Each of the undersigned believes that there are various other ill-advised and imprudent provisions within the document, but we also believe that those provisions should be modified by the will people of the Virgin Islands, not by the imposition of Congress.

The enclosed marked-up version of the Proposed Constitution reflects those modifications that we believe are essential for consistency with the Federal Constitution and laws that must be addressed by the impending Congressional review. Beyond those changes, however, we ask Congress to return the Proposed Constitution to us in the form in which it was approved by the duly elected representatives of the Virgin Islands people, in order that the people may determine to approve or reject the their own Constitution.

Please feel free to contact any of the signatories below at their listed emails or in care of the noted address for clarification or other input in the Congressional review process. Thank you for your consideration in these regards and for your representation of the people of the Virgin Islands.

Fifth Constitutional Convention


Letter to Honorable Donna M. Christensen

Re: Proposed Constitution of the United States Virgin Islands


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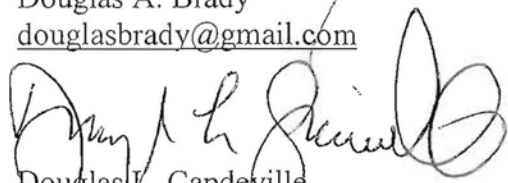
Respectfully,


  
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Clement Magras  
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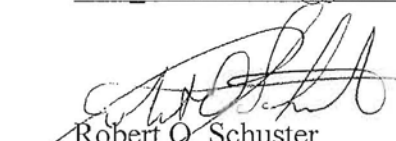
  
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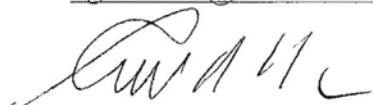
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Enclosures (2)

cc: Honorable Barack H. Obama  
Honorable John P. deJongh, Jr.  
Fifth Constitutional Convention Members  
Lloyd J. Jordan, Esq.  
Carlyle Corbin

January 29, 2010

Honorable Barack H. Obama  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Proposed Constitution of the United States Virgin Islands

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned are all members of the Fifth Constitutional Convention of the United States Virgin Islands and write concerning the Proposed Constitution of the Virgin Islands forwarded to you by Governor John P. deJongh, Jr. on December 31, 2009.

You understand the tremendous importance that the establishment of our own Constitution has for the people of the Virgin Islands, in order that we may more fully enjoy “the basic democratic principle of government by the consent of the governed,” as Congress noted in the enabling legislation, Public Law 94-584.

The establishment of a Constitution of the United States Virgin Islands is an essential step for the people of the Virgin Islands to attain greater local self-governance and autonomy in the context of our political union with the United States.

Yet, as members of the Constitutional Convention that adopted the Proposed Constitution, we acknowledge that the document forwarded to you is flawed. Certain sections simply cannot exist in harmony with provisions of the Federal Constitution and laws, and we acknowledge that those several provisions of the Proposed Constitution cannot stand.

We forward to you with this letter a marked-up copy of the Proposed Constitution as we believe it should be revised by Congress before it is returned to the people of the Virgin Islands. We ask that you recommend to the Congress that it modify only those several provisions that cannot be justified as consistent with the Federal Constitution and laws, and return the otherwise intact document to the people of the Virgin Islands to adopt or reject the Proposed Constitution adopted by their elected representatives.

The undersigned, individually and jointly, have various other concerns relative to the substantive provisions of the Proposed Constitution, but believe that those revisions of a political nature should be made in the Virgin Islands by the people of the Virgin Islands.

We hope and expect that your review and the review of the Congress to follow will result in the return to the people of the Virgin Islands of the Proposed Constitution with Constitutional infirmities eliminated, but otherwise intact, and that we will soon have the privilege of adopting our own Constitution to establish our future course of increased self governance.

Each of the undersigned is available at your convenience to provide additional information and clarification, by listed emails or in care of the address noted below. In advance, we thank you for your consideration of this matter of extreme importance to the people of the Virgin Islands.

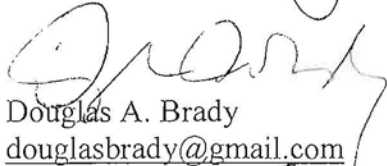
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Letter to President Barak H. Obama  
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Respectfully,



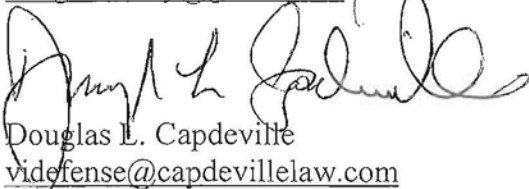
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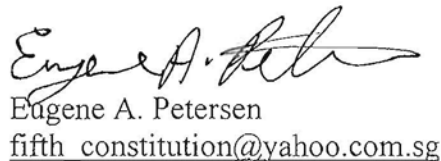


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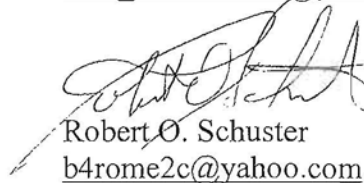
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