

**AUGUST 5, 2005**

To petition the Congress of the United States to amend section 2 of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to allow the people of the Virgin Islands, through its Legislature, to determine where the capital and the seat of Government shall be located

Senator Ronald E. Russell  
Co-Sponsors: Craig Barshinger, Pedro "Pete" Encarnacion  
and Juan Figueroa-Serville

**WHEREAS**, the United States Virgin Islands, similar to many of the fifty states and other territories are experiencing economic difficulties; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Virgin Islands' economy is mainly a tourist-driven economy; and

**WHEREAS**, most of the revenue generated from the tourism industry in the United States Virgin Islands is generated on the island of St. Thomas; and

**WHEREAS**, the District of St. Thomas and St. John is contributing approximately two-thirds of the revenues generated by the Government while the District

of St. Croix is contributing approximately one-third of the revenues generated by the Government; and

**WHEREAS**, revenues generated by the Government are deposited into a General Fund and used to manage and operate the territory; and

**WHEREAS**, the island of St. Thomas is suffering from congested structures, congested traffic and is lacking physical space for expansion; and

**WHEREAS**, current government office space located on St. Thomas, especially in Charlotte Amalie, including the Earl B. Ottley Legislative Building, could be used for museums, tourist attractions, indoor entertainment, tourist related activities, rental space for business expansion and for general improvement of the tourist product offered on this island; and

**WHEREAS**, the island of St. Croix is more than twice as large as the island of St. Thomas and has mainly flat terrain, conducive for infrastructure development, economic expansion and light industry promotion; and

**WHEREAS**, the island of St. Croix has two towns, namely Christiansted and Frederiksted, located 12 miles apart, which are in need of major government re-investment, repairs, and re-development; and

**WHEREAS**, the island of St. Croix hosts major fiber optic global connections that can enhance government operations, private investments and business opportunities and stimulate the United States Virgin Islands' economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature of the Virgin Islands believes that it is in the best interest of the people of the Virgin Islands for the United States Congress to give the

Virgin Islands the flexibility to determine where the seat of the government is located in the Virgin Islands and how the local government can better allocate its resources to meet the needs of its citizens. Now Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

**SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands respectfully petitions the U.S. Congress to amend section 2, paragraph 2, of the Revised Organic Act of 1954, to provide that the location of the seat of Government and Capitol of the United States Virgin Islands shall be determined by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands.

**SECTION 2.** Copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Delegate to Congress, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate.

**BR 05-0778/ July 6, 2005/ PFA**