



## THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

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340-774-0001

February 3, 2010

**via E-Mail [jbarry@gov.vg](mailto:jbarry@gov.vg)**

The Honorable Ralph T. O'Neal  
Premier  
Government of the British Virgin Islands  
Road Town, Tortola  
British Virgin Islands

Dear Premier O'Neal:

Over the past weeks I have received a number of requests from individuals and businesses that form the backbone of our boating community asking that I contact you on their behalf to express concerns on the implementation of the new Small Commercial Vessels ("SCV") Code by the Virgin Islands Shipping Registry ("VISR").

Our small commercial boating industry has been especially hard hit by the downturn in the world economy and is seeing a decline in charter revenues at a time when the cost of doing business, especially the cost of fuel, is significantly rising. These businesses are suffering and fear the additional costs arising from the implementation of the regulations would cause further, critical damage.

Our boating industry assures me it has absolutely no dispute with the BVI's authority to implement rules designed to enhance boating safety and security in its own waters, nor those intended to protect commercial operators and passengers alike. I request, on their behalf, a delay in the implementation of the SCV Code, not just for financial requirements being imposed, but so that certain elements of the SCV Code can be more specifically tailored to operations here in our waters. I believe this is a reasonable request, and is made with good intent and if granted will promote goodwill.

Accordingly, on behalf of these constituent interests and my Government, I am respectfully asking the Government of the British Virgin Islands and the VISR to hold the implementation of these new rules for a reasonable period to allow our Governments, as well as our boating industries, to confer on the concerns raised by the SCV Code provisions. It is my hope that our two Governments, along with our boating communities, can work together on

The Honorable Ralph T. O'Neal

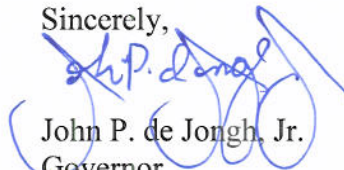
February 3, 2010

Page | 2

measures that will at once take into consideration current economic hardships while enhancing the safety of all who ply our waters. I suggest that we use the vehicle of the Inter Virgin Islands Council ("IVIC") to facilitate a discussion.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and to a meeting of our representatives to discuss these shared concerns of our islands.

Sincerely,



John P. de Jongh, Jr.  
Governor