



CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL OF  
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
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The Honorable Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515-0508

Dear Madam Speaker:

I am sending this letter on behalf of the collective union membership located in the United States Virgin Islands, as president of the Virgin Islands Central Labor Council (CLC). The CLC is comprised of over 7,000 members with membership in the public and private sectors. On behalf of CLC membership I would like to thank you for your continued commitment to all of America's unionized workers, and specifically express our appreciation for the support that you have provided to the U.S. Virgin Islands and the insular areas to ensure equity in legislation and governmental programs.

Similar to many other areas, we face the challenge of ensuring job security for our membership and a quality of life that enables them to provide for their families, especially as we have faced the economic recession of the last twenty (20) years. St.Croix economy has languished since the overwhelming devastation delivered by the direct hit of Hurricane Hugo in 1989. The Island lost hotels that never returned, and despite efforts by the Virgin Islands Casino Commission to attract new tourist hotels over the last 20 years not one has been built.

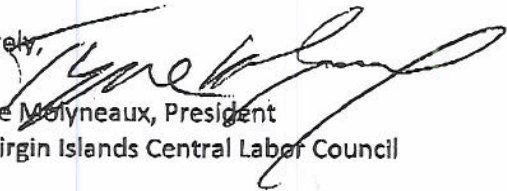
Preserving Americans unionized jobs is as important as creating new jobs in this difficult global economy. This agreement and the jobs it will provide to our devastated economy are an early holiday present to the U.S. Virgin Islands. The new rum production planned by Diageo plc and Fortune Brands, Inc will generate millions of dollars in new tax revenues that will support education and other public services and infrastructure needs in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Rejecting the deals because of the tax incentives could not be an option, given that the Diageo will be the first major jobs-creating new construction in St.Croix in over twenty years. While some have questioned the decision to commit substantial sums from the so called rum cover-over tax program, the reality is that the agreement gives the U.S. territory an opportunity to stabilize its economic developments for years to come.

Diageo has said that the incentives offered by the U.S. Virgin Islands are the only thing that kept them from moving their production out of the United States entirely. The St. Croix projects will keep jobs in the United States that otherwise appeared destined to move elsewhere.

We appreciate your ongoing leadership in protecting U.S. workers and fighting for our economic opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyrone Molyneaux', written over a horizontal line.

Tyrone Molyneaux, President  
U.S. Virgin Islands Central Labor Council