



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

January 24, 2017

The Honorable Kenneth E. Mapp  
Governor  
The United States Virgin Islands  
Government House  
Charlotte Amalie, VI 00802

Dear Governor Mapp:

Over the last two weeks, local media reports have indicated that there have been a series of closed door meetings held with your Administration, various members of the Virgin Islands Legislature and certain members of the business community to discuss the finances of our Territory, and your proposed five-year financial plan as outlined in Bill Number 31-0497.

Given the dire and serious state of the Virgin Island's finances, (especially in the context of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico recently seeking a federal solution to address its own financial and debt crisis) as well as the Government of the Virgin Islands' continued push for increased federal funding and the concerns surrounding our local government's past federal spending, I find it questionable that you have chosen to conduct such meetings without involving the Office of the Delegate to Congress.

This is a moment in the history of our Territory requiring "all hands on deck" as well as an open and transparent approach inclusive of VI leaders at all levels of government. I also believe it important for the public at large, and to some degree our local media, to be appropriately engaged by the chief executive to ensure the well-being of the Territory.

Our people deserve their elected leaders to exhibit true leadership and honesty on all matters, but most certainly when the creditworthiness of the Territory has been negatively affected, thus impacting the lives of current and future generations of Virgin Islanders.

As the elected Delegate of the Virgin Islands, I can only hope that in this instance you would afford the people of the Virgin Islands the respect of keeping my office and the people of the territory engaged – at best, or apprised – at worse, of any plan considered or created locally where federal intervention may be the ultimate recourse given the gravity of the circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacey E. Plaskett".

Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress