STACEY PLASKETT U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

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## COMMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY, HORTICULTURE AND RESEARCH

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro Chairwoman Committee on Appropriations 2413 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Kay Granger Ranking Member Committee on Appropriations 1026 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting fiscal year 2023 community project funding for the Estate La Grange Project on St. Croix in the Virgin Islands.

The public entity to receive funding for this project is the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works, which is located at 6002 Annas Hope, St. Croix, VI 00820. The anticipated location of the project is Estate La Grange, St. Croix, VI 00840.

The requested funding would be used to construct this flood risk management project at Estate La Grange, St. Croix, Virgin Islands under the Continuing Authorities Program of the Army Corps of Engineers. Specifically, the flood control project would clear and grub the lower 1,600 feet of the existing gut, connected with a new channel to divert the flow northwest of the original gut. A 1,600-foot earthen levee will be constructed to divert flows away from the downtown area of Frederiksted, St. Croix. An interior drainage channel will be constructed to move water from the impounded downtown area of Frederiksted, St. Croix. The existing drainage structure will be replaced with a culvert at King Street. The Prince Street culvert and bridge will be removed.

This project is a sound use of taxpayer funding because St. Croix is a remote insular area of the United States that is highly vulnerable to climate change, and there is persistent and significant flooding in the area due to low pressure weather fronts, storms and hurricanes. With the increased frequency and severity of these storms due to climate change, it is expected that the flooding and potential impacts will worsen if this project is not completed.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Stacey E/Plaskett Member of Congress