

# Legislature of the Virgin Islands

P.O. BOX 1690  
ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS 00802  
(340) 712-2278



The Honorable  
**Angel Bolques, Jr.**  
Senator-At-Large  
35<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands

**CHAIRMAN**  
Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports, & Parks

**VICE-CHAIRMAN**  
Committee on Economic Development & Agriculture

**MEMBER**  
Committee on Rules & Judiciary  
Committee on Homeland Security, Justice & Public Safety  
Committee on Housing, Transportation, & Telecommunication  
Subcommittee on Energy & Infrastructure Development



**For Immediate Release:**

**November 19, 2023**

**Media Contact:**

**Senator Angel Bolques Jr.**

Telephone: (340) 693-3571

Email: [senatorbolques@legvi.org](mailto:senatorbolques@legvi.org)

# MEDIA PRESS RELEASE

## **Senator At Large, Angel Bolques Jr. Extends Gratitude for Federal Response to Water Crisis in the U.S. Virgin Islands**

VIRGIN ISLANDS - As Senator At Large for the Virgin Islands, I am profoundly grateful to President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. for his prompt approval of the emergency declaration in response to our territory's critical water supply situation. This decisive action, resulting from elevated levels of lead and copper detected since October 25, 2023, has paved the way for crucial federal disaster assistance.

I extend my deepest appreciation to FEMA and Ms. Lai Sun Yee, appointed to oversee Federal recovery operations in our affected areas. Their commitment to mobilizing resources and providing emergency protective measures is invaluable in our efforts to safeguard the health and safety of our residents.

Our territory is also thankful to the Office of the Governor and the Office of Delegate to Congress for their unwavering support and collaboration in navigating this crisis. Their advocacy and coordination have been instrumental in securing the necessary federal assistance. I also express my sincere gratitude to the members of the 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands for their effective response to the recent water supply emergency. Your swift

action and unwavering dedication have been crucial in addressing the challenges by moving several pieces of legislation to support mitigation efforts.

The President's authorization for FEMA to lead disaster relief efforts under the Stafford Act is a significant relief for our population. The assistance in providing water, filters, testing, and technical resources is vital in addressing the immediate threats to public health and safety on St. Croix.

As we proceed with these emergency measures, my office remains committed to working closely with all federal and local partners. Our collective goal is to ensure a swift and effective response to this emergency, minimizing the hardship on our community and averting further escalation of this catastrophe.

We stand united in our resolve to overcome this challenge and restore safety and normalcy to our beautiful island of St. Croix and the Virgin Islands.

###