

**Motion to Consider the Approval by the National Assembly of the Disposition of the Commerce Bight Port to Recological Systems Limited, 2021.**

**WHEREAS**, the former Minister responsible for ports, the then Honourable Edmond Castro, had, two days before the general elections, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020, awarded a lease for the Commerce Bight Port to Recological Systems Limited (“Recological”) for a period of 25 years, and Standing Order 26 of the House of Representatives provides for a Motion to be moved with the permission of the Speaker;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Minister leased the said port for 25 years for the sum of \$5,000.00 upon grant and the annual sum equivalent of 1% of the gross revenue of the port during the preceding financial year;

**AND WHEREAS**, Recological has had no history of owning or managing any ports in Belize or elsewhere;

**AND WHEREAS**, the said port has been valued for a current value of \$3,750,000.00 and having an annual rental value of \$300,000.00;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Finance and Audit (Reform) Act prohibits the disposal of assets, which includes the leasing of public assets, in excess of \$2 million without obtaining the approval of the National Assembly within one month of its execution;

**AND WHEREAS**, the former Minister could not have placed a Motion for the approval of the leasing of the port to Recological for the approval of the National Assembly with the National Assembly having been dissolved on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020;

**AND WHEREAS**, as the current Minister responsible for the port, after conducting an internal enquiry, was only made aware that this lease was not tabled before the National Assembly, and I now wish to have the National Assembly resolve whether to approve the said lease;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Lease dated the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020, of the Commerce Bight Port for 25 years for the sum of \$5,000.000 and 1% of its gross revenue for the preceding year, to Recological, be approved or disapproved, copies of the Lease and the Valuation Report are hereto annexed.