March 1, 2010

Good Morning/Afternoon,

Chairman Coleman, Chairman Sharkey and members of the Planning & Development Committee,

My name is Peggy Duffy, CCMC, Tax Collector Thomaston.

I am writing to you today to express my concern in regards to proposed legislation which will handicap Tax Collection, proposed House Bill 5254; an act to eliminate Jeopardy Collection and 5269; an act concerning delinquent property taxes.

Bill 5254:
I would urge you to examine why this proposed repeal of 12-163 is occurring. If it is because of concern developing from one particular town, then that town/city should take steps to correct the issue on the local level. To repeal jeopardy collection for all other collector's is not only unfair it will hinder collection enforcement. Thomaston uses Jeopardy Collection very sparingly but when it is necessary, it is utilized correctly. When a business is here on October 1st but will be moved to another state, town or out of business prior to July – it is my duty as Tax Collector to invoke jeopardy collection and bring in that revenue that my Town is counting on.

Bill 5269:
I have no understanding as to why this bill is being proposed. As far as I can tell everyone still agrees the main revenue for municipalities is property taxation. Collection of these taxes is hard enough, especially in our present economy. If there is no penalty for not paying what will be the incentive to pay? Budget times are tough, as we are all aware, but do you realize that in the projected revenue towns include a certain amount of penalty interest? How will that revenue be made up? Higher mill rates, which in turn will make higher taxes – for those who are paying on time. Why should timely payers have to make up for those who pay late?

I would urge you not to pass either of these proposed bills.

Thank you for your time & consideration.

Regards,

Peggy Duffy CCMC
Tax Collector Thomaston
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