

# City Of Torrington



ELINOR CARBONE  
Mayor

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March 22, 2016

## Written Testimony before the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

### RE: SB 466 – AN ACT CONCERNING PROPERTY TAXES AND PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF PROPERTY TAXES

Senator Fonfara, Representative Berger and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, thank you for this opportunity to address you regarding SB466 "*An Act Concerning Property Taxes and Payments in Lieu of Property Taxes*"

I am writing to you today to express my strong support of this proposed legislation. Torrington is in desperate need of the support of our legislators in seeing that Senate Bill 1 is amended. As currently adopted, the City of Torrington is being significantly injured by the impact of the motor vehicle mill rate cap implemented using FY 2015 as the base. SB 1 failed to take into consideration the impact that a revaluation would have on a municipality's mill rate subsequent to FY 2015.

Pursuant to Section 12-62 of the General Statutes, the city of Torrington conducted the requisite revaluation for the Grand List of October 1, 2014. The impact of the revaluation resulted in a staggering 18.8% reduction in our assessments. As a result, the city had no choice but to adjust the mill rate accordingly. Our mill rate went from 36.32 mills to 45.75 mills. The city council and board of finance approved and adopted the adjusted mill rate on June 1, 2015, thirty days before SB 1 was voted on and approved.

Using the methodology adopted in SB 1, the City of Torrington stands to lose in excess of \$700,000.00 in reimbursements designed to cover the losses in revenue incurred as a result of the motor vehicle mill rate cap. This loss of revenue will be devastating to the taxpayers of Torrington and will result in cuts to services, reductions in staff, and have a deleterious effect on educational services.

For several years, the City of Torrington has been identified by the Office of Policy and Management as a "distressed municipality". Torrington is the urban center of Litchfield County and, as such, we host many of the services and amenities for the Northwest Corner. We face all of the same problems the larger municipalities in Connecticut face, yet due to a population of under 50,000, we cannot access the same funding or resources as the larger cities. We are pleading that you vote in favor of this bill and keep the City of Torrington "whole" as was the initial intention of SB 1.

I appreciate your taking the time to hear our concerns and I remain hopeful that you will agree that the proposed changes included in SB466 are reasonable and worthy of your support.

With great appreciation for all that you do for our great State. I wish you the best of luck in the rest of the legislative session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elinor Carbone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elinor Carbone  
Mayor