

CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TESTIMONY OF MARGARET K DUFFY, CCMC ON PROPOSED HOUSE BILL 5040, "AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRIORITY OF BENEFIT ASSESSMENT LIENS UNDER THE COMMERCIAL SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROGRAM"

My name is Margaret Duffy and I am the Tax Collector of the Town of Thomaston. I am also a member of the Connecticut Tax Collectors Association, a trade group primarily devoted to educating municipal revenue collectors and standardizing and streamlining the procedures they use to fulfill their statutory duties.

Tax collectors have no authority over tax policy, rates, or programs. We do not decide who is responsible to pay or how much. Instead, our function is purely ministerial: we collect taxes and other charges in the amounts and manner as directed by assessors and legislators. We have the unique position of working on a daily basis with the laws which lay out the procedures by which municipal taxes and other types of assessments like sewer charges are paid, both voluntarily and as recovered through litigation, garnishments, and similar mechanisms. It is from this perspective, I offer my opinion on HB5040, which would impact the manner in which these functions are carried out and also affects the taxpayers and sewer users who are my constituents.

I urge you all to support House Bill 5040, "An Act Concerning the priority of Benefit Assessment Liens under the Commercial Sustainable Energy Program" which would rectify the current statute language that does not protect the town's sewer usage liens.

House Bill 5040 is common-sense legislation which will assist municipalities and ensure fairness in the tax collection process. Please vote in favor of this important bill.

Respectfully Submitted
Margaret K. Duffy