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**Raised Bill SB 1135 – An Act Concerning the Municipal Interest Rate-Applicable to Delinquent Property Taxes**

This testimony is being submitted in opposition of raised SB 1135, which would allow Municipalities a local option to charge an interest rate less than 18% on delinquent property taxes.

Tax Collectors being governed by Connecticut General Statutes helps maintain uniformity and fairness to all the residents in Connecticut. An interest rate of 18% for all of the municipalities in the state sends the message that regardless of your place of residence you will be treated as an equal. Giving a municipal option to reduce the interest rate depending on the town or city would cause towns with already lower mill rates to reduce the interest being charged, as they do not count as much on delinquent tax collection in their budget, and Cities that have higher mill rates keeping the 18% because they bank on the interest received in their budgets every year.

The uniform mill rate also gives Collectors strength in numbers as we all have to collect the same way following the statutes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel A-Massih