



Launa M. Goslee, CCMC, Tax Collector
City of Torrington
140 Main Street
Torrington, CT 06790
Phone 860.489.2209
Fax 860.496.5905
taxcollector@torringtonct.org

April 30, 2019

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, Connecticut General Assembly

Re: Raised 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, An Act Concerning the Municipal Interest Rate Applicable to Delinquent Property Taxes.

I am the tax collector for the City of Torrington, a teacher for the state of Connecticut's program for certifying municipal tax collectors ("CCMC"), as well as the most current Past-President for the Connecticut Tax Collectors' Association ("CTx"), a trade group primarily devoted to educating municipal collectors and standardizing and streamlining the procedures they use to fulfill their statutory duties.

The municipal tax structure is governed by the Connecticut General Statutes, which means each municipality must collect taxes in accordance with these statutes. CTx, CCMC and I as a municipal tax collector for the past 17 ½ years promote, encourage and enforce these tax structures to the best of our ability within all of our offices across the state. Uniformity and consistency are what makes this system strong and legalizes the actions taken by each and every tax collector in the state. By upholding what the municipal tax structure is meant to accomplish, municipalities may not offer a better "deal" than any other municipality in the state. By allowing a municipality to lower, or raise, the uniform 18% interest rate, municipalities would be at odds with each other, thus eliminating the integrity that exists with our uniform collections.

This interest rate is referred to as a penalty for a reason when we teach other individuals training to become a certified Connecticut municipal collector as we can use it as a deterrent, prompting taxpayers to pay on time. We should not allow delinquent taxpayers a benefit when many taxpayers pay their bills on time.

Therefore, as the tax collector for the City of Torrington, a teacher for CCMC, as well as the most current Past-President for CTx, I respectfully oppose Raised SB 1135 and ask that this be removed from consideration by your committee.

Thank you.