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Testimony

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RE: Raised Bill SB1135-An Act Concerning the Municipal Interest Rate Applicable to Delinquent Property Taxes

Hello, I'm sure by now you have gotten the hint that the Tax Collectors are not for this bill at all. Well my career has spanned almost 27 years, but I have been a Taxpayer longer. As a taxpayer, I do appreciate efforts to try and find ways to make paying taxes easier on folks in general, but I am looking for tax reform on a State level and not so much on a Town level. I feel that I have more of a say at the Town level, and I benefit more directly from the taxes I pay in my Town.

I can see why you might think this would be helpful to Towns, but it would only pit one Town against another, and it is inconsistent with uniformity amongst our Towns. Take a large city like Bridgeport, would the Assessor there notice if a fleet of 50 trucks was no longer on their grand list, because those trucks were reregistered in a Town with a lower interest rate, even though those same trucks were still housed in Bridgeport? This will happen. It has happened with mill rates.

Also would many Towns willingly give up a portion of their income?

If Towns felt pressured to do so, wouldn't town taxes go up to make up the difference? Why are we rewarding the people who pay late, by decreasing the interest rate? What about those of us who pay on time? Please think of the on time taxpayers, like my 87 year old widowed mother. The more Town taxes go up, the more difficult it becomes for some of those taxpayers to pay their taxes in full, and on time. Potentially this could create more people paying late, so now folks who never paid interest are finding themselves doing so.

Typically in Manchester I will collect close to 98% of the newest grand list from July 1st to June 30th. A portion of those taxes were paid with interest, and then an even smaller group actually went a full 12 months before they paid anything on their newest tax bill. So these are the folks who would have actually paid the full 18%, most tax bills were paid on time. My point is that having the option to lower the interest rate only benefits a small group.

I strongly urge you to reconsider Raised Bill SB1135, and consider strongly a decrease in sales tax, gas tax, that "temporary" State income tax, the tax on my morning cup of coffee, or newspaper. Go ahead, you pick which one. We have so many.