



February 26, 2019

Testimony
David Kluczowski, CCMC, Town of Fairfield, Tax Collector
Connecticut Tax Collectors' Association, Inc
Legislative Co-Chair

SB 1135 – AAC The Municipal Interest Rate Applicable to Delinquent Property Taxes

My name is David Kluczowski and I am the Legislative Co-Chair for the Connecticut Tax Collectors' Association as well as Tax Collector for the Town of Fairfield. To the distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee I urge you to reject Senate Bill 1135 "AAC The Municipal Interest Rate Applicable to Delinquent Property Taxes."

In order for property taxes to be collected in an efficient and effective manner, it is imperative that all Tax Collectors statewide maintain uniformity in their collection enforcement. By uniform, I mean we abide by the same Connecticut General Statutes to enforce collection as well as the same rate of interest when delinquent. By efficient, I mean all Tax Collectors are following the same practices to minimize any confusion or questions received by taxpayers and constituents. And lastly, by effective, I mean that a rate of 18% of interest is meant to encourage tax payments made on time and to properly compensate municipalities when tax payments are not received timely.

Uniformity also leaves out the possibility for any municipality to offer a better circumstance than any other. Competing interest rates could potentially put towns at odds with each other, and could potentially create political issues across towns as well. It would be unfair for individuals in one town to receive special treatment because they elected people to office that promised a lower rate of interest in their town that another town did not offer. It's also unfair to potentially provide incentive for taxpayers to not pay timely or to benefit those delinquent taxpayers at the expense of those individuals who choose to pay timely by offering a lower rate of interest.

Our effectiveness as the revenue collectors for our municipalities depends on a property tax system built on uniformity and integrity. As stated previously, our administrations depend on us to bring in the necessary revenue for our towns to operate. In order for us to achieve this in an effective and efficient manner, it is critical that we maintain uniformity, void of any favoritism that could potentially put towns at odds with each other and undermine our ability to achieve the collection of property taxes in an effective and equitable manner.

Once again, I urge you to please reject Senate Bill 1135.