

EIGHTH UTILITIES DISTRICT

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May 1, 2019

RE: SB 1135- An Act Concerning the Municipal Interest Rate Applicable to Delinquent Property Taxes.

As Assistant Tax Collector for the Eighth Utilities District in Manchester, CT please consider this testimony in opposition to SB-1135.

As Tax Collectors, we are bound to the Connecticut State Statutes. Overall, statewide uniformity promotes an efficient and fair system of collection. The existing 18% interest rate on delinquent taxes promotes timely collection, helps maintain a strong town/district budget and instills fairness within and across towns/districts.

Allowing a lower interest rate would result in less taxes being collected by towns/districts on an annual basis. A lower collection rate would greatly upset town/district budgets, and ultimately result in the burden being put on the taxpayers who do make timely payments. Furthermore, SB-1135 has the potential to put towns and districts at odds with each other by allowing competing interest rates. All taxpayers have the right to be treated equally and fairly, as such the proposed act SB-1135 is unjust and unfair.

Tax Collectors need to be able to stand together in solidarity, against delinquent taxpayers and for our abiding constituents, a uniform interest rate on delinquent taxes allows us to do so. For these reasons, I ask that you please oppose SB-1135.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Skoog, CCMC
Assistant Tax Collector
Eighth Utilities District
Manchester, CT

