April 30, 2019

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

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

This testimony is respectfully submitted in opposition of raised SB 1135.

The municipal property tax structure is governed by the Connecticut General Statutes; and requires all municipalities to act in a uniform and consistent manner. This can only be done when we maintain uniformity across the board on how we collect. Maintaining a uniform interest rate of 18% throughout the state sends a clear message to residents that they will be treated the same regardless of your town. Also, the rate of 18% is meant to act as a deterrent, and prompt residents to pay their taxes on time. Allowing a local option where the interest rate may vary from town to town will weaken the strength of Tax Collectors and make the job of collecting that much more difficult. This is not a time for the towns to have a more difficult time to collect its revenue.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of SB 1135.

Respectfully submitted,

Gay St. Louis, CCMC
Town of Windham and
Town of Chaplin