



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

**Michele Wyatt C.C.M.C.
Tax Collector**

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

May 2, 2019

Subject: SB 1135 – An Act Concerning the Municipal Interest Rate on Delinquent Property Taxes

My name is Michele Wyatt, I am the Tax Collector of Colchester. I am writing this testimony in opposition to SB- 1135.

Being a tax collector in the State of Connecticut is a difficult job at times. We are under the stress and pressures of town officials and various boards to meet goals, deadlines and to collect revenue for our towns. As a tax collector I come to work every day with a positive attitude that somehow I am going to make a difference – both for my town and the public. I have spent the better part of my career as a tax collector explaining the rules and regulations to my fellow taxpayers putting an emphasis on the high interest rate. People just do not like paying taxes however it is something we all must do as it's our civic duty. When government starts to talk about taking away our tools; I am referring specifically to the interest rate as a tool; it makes our jobs harder to collect that revenue for the town. A uniform rate of 18% encourages tax payments to be made on time, and promotes equity and integrity. Keeping the interest rate promotes fairness to every taxpayer in the State. It allows a difficult job to be done fairly with no favoritism to anyone and not become a political issue. I am urging you to oppose SB-1135.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michele Wyatt, CCMC
Town of Colchester Tax Collector