

Senator Fonfara, Representative Rojas and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. I am opposed to S.B. 1137, An Act Concerning Deposits in Lieu of Taxes. Requiring our YMCA to pay a tax to the State Treasurer would obviously have a very significant impact on the ability of Connecticut's YMCA's to continue to strengthen our communities by reducing available monies for initiatives that directly impact tens of thousands of community members on a daily basis.

In 2018 alone, the 21 Connecticut Y's - which include 36 branches and over 175 program sites - distributed \$11 million in financial assistance. During the past five years, our Y's have collectively distributed over \$60 million to families in aid. As a member of the Riverbrook Regional Y's Financial Assistance Committee, I know firsthand how important these funds are to many of our members in order to make Y membership a reality.

Our Y's financial assistance program allows families in Southwestern Connecticut to send their children to our quality early childhood and after-school school programs as well as our vibrant summer camps. Our funding also supports adults with key health support initiatives including our Diabetes Prevention, Blood Pressure Management Screening, and Cancer Survivorship programs. These are heavily subscribed to and serve as invaluable resources to our communities.

It's also worth sharing with members of the Committee that statewide, the Y employs almost 8,000 Connecticut residents and that over 500,000 Connecticut residents have participated or attended a Y program or event in Connecticut.

If passed into law, this bill would significantly negatively impact our ability to provide financial assistance to those in need, employ thousands of Connecticut residents, and serve our local community. Many difficult financial decisions would need to be made by local Y's if this provision is accepted by the Connecticut General Assembly.

Thank you for considering these vital implications for our Connecticut Y's when proceeding with discussions surrounding this bill.

Sincerely,  
-Doug Bogan

Board Member, Riverbrook Regional YMCA