



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

April 25, 2019

Senator Fonfara, Representative Rojas and  
members of the Finance, Revenue & 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 Camp Hazen YMCA to pay a tax to the State Treasurer would obviously have a very significant impact on the ability of Connecticut's YMCAs to continue to strengthen our communities.

In 2018, the 21 Connecticut Ys, which includes 36 branches and over 175 program sites, distributed \$11 million in financial assistance. During the past five years our Ys have distributed over \$60 million to families in aid.

Financial assistance allows families across Connecticut to send their children to quality early childhood programs, after school programs and youth camping programs. It allows adults to improve their health by participating in our Diabetes Prevention Program and our Cancer Survivorship programs. Individuals are provided with housing. Children are able to attend summer camp, learn many new lifelong skills including confidence, independence and leadership skills.

I would also share with the members of the Committee that CT Y's employ almost 8,000 Connecticut residents, and over 500,000 Connecticut residents have participated or attended a Y program or event in Connecticut.

Our ability to provide financial assistance, continue to employ thousands of Connecticut residents, and serve our local community will be directly impacted by this proposal. Many difficult financial decisions will need to be made by local Ys if this provision is accepted by the Connecticut General Assembly.

**204 WEST MAIN ST • CHESTER, CT 06412**  
phone (860) 526-9529 • fax (860) 526-9520  
office@camphazenyumca.org • www.camphazenyumca.org

**CAMP HAZEN YMCA**

Camp Hazen YMCA is already supporting our community financially. In 2018 alone, we provided over \$375,000 in financial assistance to 572 children. Camp Hazen YMCA also supports our community with initiatives that positively impact local residents through our Caring Connections Program. In 2018, our Caring Connections program provided funding for the following: Valley Regional High School Crew Team practice site; Chester Elementary School Field day for over 200 students; activities for Chester's Winter Carnivale; Chester Elementary School New Families day; monthly meeting space for Chester's Cedar Lake Watershed Commission Committee; team building programs for Tri-town Youth Services Peer Advocates; donating meeting space for a number of other non-profit organizations in our service area and hosting Healthy Kids Day for 300-500 local children and families to enjoy a free family day of activities at Camp Hazen YMCA.

Camp Hazen YMCA is committed to helping youth develop valuable life skills through camping experiences that build health bodies, open minds and awakened spirits. S.B. 1137, An Act Concerning Deposits in Lieu of Taxes would severely impact our ability to continue to provide life changing experiences for children from all walks of life.

Sincerely,



Denise Learned  
Executive Director/CEO