



**Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street
Hartford, CT 06105-2281

**Testimony in Opposition Section 1 of House Bill 1137: An Act Concerning Deposits in Lieu of
Taxes**

**Submitted by, Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate
Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ
May 7, 2019**

Dear Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ and I am writing today in opposition to Section 1 of House Bill 1137.

I am writing on behalf of the 233 congregations and more than 67,000 people in our state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members.

Section 1 of HB 1137 would be a financial hardship and impact our state churches in a negative manner. Our churches provide an exorbitant amount of services to the communities they serve. These services include housing homeless families, providing meals for those in need, collecting money for a variety of service projects, collecting clothes/shoes/ food for community organizations, helping tutor children, food pantries, sponsoring needy families at Christmas and buying Thanksgiving dinners to families in need, and many other needed and vital services. We are granted tax-exempt status in acknowledgement of the tremendous value of the services and programs we provide, both locally and internationally.

Many of our churches are struggling financially and adding additional fees to their already tight budgets would be very challenging and would compromise many of the services we provide.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to Section 1 of House Bill 1137.

Blessings,
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