

Daylight versus Standard Time (SB 320)

There is a reason that daylight savings time is set back to standard time early each November. It is so school kids don't have to wait in the dark for the morning bus. It is also so sleepy drivers don't have to drive to work in darkness.

If time is left on daylight savings time all year long, sunrise on December 15th will occur at about 8:43 A.M. with civil twilight occurring about a half hour earlier. This means that for the two months of very short winter days (mid November through mid January), it will be dark to nearly dark until about 8:30 A.M. As mentioned this places school kids and the early morning commute in near darkness.

There is support for not having the annual changes of time. But the best selection is to remain on standard time, (PST). On standard time, daylight is equally balanced between mornings and evenings as time will follow the natural course of the sun as it arcs across the sky. On standard time; school kids, commuters, construction workers and field hands will continue to have ample morning light during winter to get their day safely started.

But if the legislature insists upon daylight savings time as the only choice, why not try it for a year or two just to see how it actually works out and how people feel about it. Have a trial period before making the change permanent. Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Parr. (Keizer)