

March 11, 2019

Senate Committee on Business and General Government  
Re: Senate Bill 320

Dear Chair Senator Riley and members of the committee,

My name is Brenda Frketich and I'm a third generation farmer from St. Paul. I farm 1000 acres alongside my husband Matt and our three small children. We raise filberts, grass seed, wheat, clover, vegetables and vegetables seeds.

I have some concerns as a mom and as a farmer regarding changing Oregon to permanent Daylight Savings Time. My concerns are two fold, as a mother of kids who ride the bus to school and also as a farmer and employer here in Oregon.

Living out in the country has been a great place to raise our kids. However we do rely on buses to get our children to and from school. We plan to have our oldest of 5 years ride the bus in the morning. He will have about a 30 minute ride to school every day. At this point if the time if we remained on year round DST, his entire wait time at the bus stop and whole bus route in the morning would be in pitch blackness. Safety but also just getting going for his day is of big concern for me. He's 5, honestly I doubt he would even feel brave enough to get on the bus at all even with me there. This would be for almost half of the school year if this was passed. This is going to be a concern for a lot of parents but particularly in rural areas where bus rides are a lot longer and a lot earlier to get to school on time.

Secondly is my concerns as a farmer and employer. While the winter isn't our busiest season, we do a lot of work in the winter outside. From spot spraying and roguing, to mouse baiting by hand. Currently we adjust our workday to start a little bit later in the winter to 7:30am. But that would have to change to 8:30am, otherwise what would I have these employees do while waiting for the sun to come up? And thereby either cutting hours and productivity, or asking our workers to work until 6pm every day through the winter.

Pruning in particular would be a tough adjustment. This is one job on our farm that takes all winter for our hazelnuts. They are long hard days and our guys rarely get time off, even in bad weather. This is because it takes us so long to get through our orchards in these already short daylight hours. Again, taking a whole other hour off at the beginning of the day would be a true hardship for us to get the jobs we need to accomplished. After looking at the math we would lose about three weeks per person out pruning, this would put us in the time period that we actually can't prune because the nuts are forming on the trees and we have to stay away from those areas to protect our crops.

Maybe it would just be better to remain at Standard Time, if the "need" is there to get rid of a time change through the year. During the summer months, for us farmers that is a true time of year where the clock doesn't matter, you're out working all the time. I think that it would be

easier to have our employees come a little earlier in the summer than try to ask them to stay later during the winter.

You may wonder why we wouldn't just start working from 8:30 till 6pm during the winter months? Well I want to remind you all that farming in the summer requires a lot of long hard hours. These are employees who we ask to work 7 days a week 14-16 hour days during the good weather in the summer. This is time away from family, away from vacations, etc. Asking them to also take away family time even during our slower time of year is going to be a tough ask. During the winter time, getting home at a reasonable hour is important for the moral of not only our employees but also their families that support them.

I would urge you to not make a change in our current system, or change it to Standard time. This would keep our kids safe as they rode to school. And keep our employees working during the winter with the highest productivity.

Thank you for your time regarding this important issue.

Sincerely,

Brenda Frketich  
16493 French Prairie Rd. NE  
Woodburn, OR 97071

Kirsch Family Farms, Inc.  
4350 Mahony Rd. NE  
St. Paul, OR 97137