

Submitter: Kim Rybold
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1548

Honorable Members of the Senate Rules Committee:

I'm am writing to express my opposition to any version of this bill moving forward. I do not support year round PST under any circumstance in Oregon. While in recent years some have found it trendy to complain about the inconvenience of changing clocks on two days each year, the impact of this legislation on the daily lives of Oregonians will persist throughout the year.

Speaking as a woman with an 8-5 job, year-round PST means up to two more months of commuting home in the dark, exercising outside after work in the dark, and generally having less time at home to accomplish outdoor household tasks. I fear this will discourage those, particularly women, who may be interested in using alternative modes of commuting (walking, bicycling, taking transit, etc.) because more of year would involve a dark commute home which has proven to be more dangerous on a number of fronts. These factors are reasons why the notion of year round PDT has typically enjoyed broader support among the public, and I would caution this committee from conflating support for year round PDT with support for year round PST as there are very different impacts.

Given the latitude at which Oregon sits, a transition to year round PST would spell the end to delightfully long summer evenings, replaced instead by a 4:30 am summer sunrise that will only serve to benefit manufacturers of blackout curtains and very early risers. I understand prior concerns that have been raised about the negative impacts of year round PDT, and would suggest that the current system of time changes, while imperfect, is the system that best balances the needs of Oregonians in the most equitable fashion. This is why this is the standard practiced throughout much of the world.