

Submitter: Mitchell Smith
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1548

I am strongly opposed to SB 1548. Long Summer evenings are one of the things I treasure most about this state. Being able to recreate in our beautiful outdoor paradise until past 9pm on a summer workday makes it possible to tolerate our winters where we have less than 9 hours of daylight. Standard time will cut one of these valuable hours and shift it to a time when almost all residents are asleep. Having first light at 3:45am will make it hard to sleep in to a time that makes sense with how our businesses and society functions.

Furthermore, there is the issue of collaboration with other time zones. I know there is an amendment to only switch with alignment from Washington and California, but standard time will shift our relative time another hour away from very important economic areas. It will be increasingly difficult to work virtually with east coast time zones, and I imagine the state will suffer an exodus of remote workers and east coast companies will be less likely to allow remote workers in Oregon. On a personal note, I work closely with European colleagues since I work at a global company. We already have to compromise with U.S. employees waking up early and European employees staying at work late to find collaboration time. This bill will make these relations even more difficult.

Standard time simply does not make sense for Oregon. We have large swings in daylight between Winter and Summer, and are already far away from important time zones. The current system is the best compromise of reasonable winter and summer sunrises. The inconvenience of switching clocks pales in comparison to the inconvenience that 7 months of standard time will bring. Please avoid pushing this bill through without voter approval.