

TRAVIS NELSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 44
NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Opposition of SB 1548

February 23, 2024

Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

I am Travis Nelson representing House District 44 of North and Northeast Portland. I am in strong opposition of Senate Bill 1548.

In 2019, the legislative body, aligned with California and Washington, passed legislation endorsing year-round Daylight-Saving Time (DST). This has yet to be approved by the Congress, however, this is something that we should leave to the federal government. We as a state, deciding to take on our own standard time will not only impact Oregonians health, but bring us out of alignment with our bordering state time zones, causing more confusion and unneeded logistics for Oregonians and our neighbors. Even with a trigger in place, we are simply ignoring what we all agreed upon previously and I urge us to consider what the standard time means in the meantime.

It's widely recognized that Oregon experiences limited sunshine much of the year. To approve a permanent standard time, we would be having 4:30 am sunrises. Now, that sounds great to the early morning riser, but on average 8% of Americans wake up by 5am and a large majority of Americans wake up between the hours of 6-7:30. This tells me that most Oregonians will miss the sunrise at 4:30 am and even more will now have burned through additional hours of precious sunlight.

The availability of sunlight into the evening hours also encourages outdoor activities and supports commerce, as people are more inclined to shop and engage in recreational activities in daylight. This has garnered the support of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and outdoor recreational interests for extended DST. Additionally, Darkness is a significant factor in the increase of accidents and fatalities, particularly during the evening rush hour, which is notably more hazardous than its morning counterpart.

The rationale for the original implementation of DST was energy savings, a goal that remains very relevant today as we continuously battle with the impacts of climate change. By extending daylight into the evening, we can significantly reduce peak energy loads. This not only lessens our electricity consumption but also our reliance on oil and gas, contributing to environmental sustainability and economic savings.

Maintaining the system as it currently stands will align public safety, energy conservation, crime prevention, health, and economic benefits, enriching the lives of Oregonians in tangible ways. We have voted DST to be permanently implemented within the state and has been passed with all our neighboring states. Let us be patient and allow the federal government to implement the change in due time and not cause negative impacts on Oregonian in the meantime.

I urge the committee to oppose Senate Bill 1548. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

State Representative Travis Nelson
House District 44, North/NE Portland