

Submitter: Patricia Johnson

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal  
and World Affairs

Measure: SB1548

I am offering testimony in opposition to SB 1548.

The US Department of Health & Human Services National Institutes of Health published a study in 2020 outlining research demonstrating that there are differences in human circadian rhythms: <https://directorsblog.nih.gov/2020/02/25/early-riser-or-night-owl-new-study-may-help-to-explain-the-difference/> Humans adapt. We know that potentially thousands of Oregonians are required to work swing shift or night shift because they are employed in public safety, health care, manufacturing, hospitality, and other occupations that need workers to operate beyond a typical day shift. If we do not question these people can adapt to their schedule, we should not question the ability of all Oregonians to adapt to Daylight Saving Time.

It will start to get hot earlier in the day. This will impact workers whose primary worksite is outdoors. An estimated 304,000 Oregonians are employed in construction, natural resources, and agriculture. People in these occupations tend to start their workday an hour earlier in the summer to avoid working during the hottest part of the day when the risk of heat-related illnesses increase. These vulnerable employees would need to start their work day two hours earlier to achieve the same benefit if Oregon remains on Standard Time.

Keeping Daylight Saving Time does not preclude early risers from waking up at 5:30 a.m. when the sun comes up. I think most early riser, however, would agree that awakening at 4:30 a.m. in the summer if your workday starts at 8:00 a.m. would not add any appreciable benefit.

Mr. Pea's assertion that staying on Standard Time would benefit farmers is specious and lacks any citations to support it. He states he is the great-grandson of farmers. I come from a long line of family farmers, grew up on a family farm, and spent copious hours with relatives who either farmed full time or who needed a day job to supplement their farm income. The US Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service published a report based on 2019 data stating 42% of all principal operators of family farms have outside employment. It is my observation and opinion that full time farmers don't care what the clock says, but those 42% who have day jobs would find it to be a hardship to lose an hour of evening daylight.

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/chart-gallery/gallery/chart-detail/?chartId=100626>

I completely understand most of us want to “ditch the switch.” The Oregon Legislature already created a vehicle for Oregonians to do so by the passage of SB 320 during the 2019 Regular Legislative Session which created permanent Daylight Saving Time in Oregon. I urge you continue to lobby Congress to allow us to implement SB 320 and I urge you to vote “no” on SB 1548.