

Submitter: Patricia Ormsbee

On Behalf Of: Self

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

Measure: SB1548

I oppose staying in standard time in Oregon and advocate for preserving the switch to daylight savings time until a time when we can shift to DLS permanently. There is a public safety and health issue that was clearly defined by Oregon citizens when they asked Oregon lawmakers to pursue full time daylight savings to avoid the issues. As stated by Steve P. Calandrillo:

"Again and again, research has shown that sunlight is far more important to Americans' health, efficiency and safety in the early evening than it is in the early morning," he wrote. "That's not to say there aren't downsides to DST (notably an extra hour of morning darkness). But on net, when all of the costs and benefits are balanced, the advantages of extended DST far outweigh those of standard time." Standard time does not provide the safety buffer of daylight for children attending school and elderly attending to errands and appointments in the afternoon and evening hours when traffic and general social activity is greater than in mornings. Protecting daylight hours in the afternoon/evening when social activity is higher rather than in the early hours of morning is the primary objective. We need to preserve as much of daylight savings time as we can for safety and health considerations. Avoiding "the switch" by staying in standard time is a move to alleviate a minor inconvenience and takes us in the wrong direction. It may be attractive to some businesses, but defeats any solution to meet the primary goal of safety and health by maximizing sunlight hours during prime hours of societal activity, particularly those of vulnerable groups including children and elderly.

Staying with standard time and eliminating all daylight savings is a ludicrous distraction that leads us in the wrong direction. It is similar to adopting policy such as If we can't house homeless people all year round, then we won't house them at all. Please, refocus your effort on figuring out alternatives for moving forward to fulltime DLST and do NOT throw us under the bus for a quick quasi fix that diminishes public safety and health and that leads us down the opposite path of where we were headed.