

I Support SB 1548

Maintaining Pacific Standard Time (PST) year around just makes sense. Most people whom I know grumble each Spring and Fall when we have to switch between standard time and daylight savings time or, in our case, Pacific Daylight Time (PDT). While many people like the idea of that extra hour of daylight at the end of the day, switching to being on PDT year around would have some undesirable consequences.

As I understand it, time zones having a uniform time within the zone set one hour apart were established in the 19th century primarily to accommodate scheduling by the railroads. The center of each zone was determined to be the point at which the sun was at its highest angle overhead at noon, or the local solar time of that point. From that development four time zones in the continental United States were established: Eastern, Central, Mountain and Pacific.

To be on Daylight Savings Time (PDT) year around would mean that we would be on Mountain Standard Time (MST) year around. In other words, our time would be based on MST solar time where the highest angle of the sun would be somewhere in the center of the MST zone. Our sunsets would be later, but so would our sunrises. On Pacific Standard Time, during the darkest winter period around the winter solstice, sunrise is around 7:30am PST. If we were on Pacific Daylight Time year around, sunrise during that same period would an hour later, or 8:30am PDT. Likewise, during the time that all of the continental United States is on standard time, Mountain Standard Time would then encompass two zones: its own plus the Pacific zone.

I return to my original statement: maintaining Pacific Standard Time (PST) year around just makes sense. It would eliminate the disruption of switching between standard time and daylight time, and it would restore the rationale upon which standard time zones were created. With PST year around, our clocks would more in sync with solar time in our region.