

Submitter: Kathryn Pyle
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1548

I am opposed to OR Senate Bill 1548.

First, I think going to year-round Standard Time (ST) would have a negative financial impact in the spring/summer for many OR businesses/organizations. With year-round ST, on June 21st, sunrise would be at 4:22 am (now 5:22 am PDT) and sunset at 8:03 pm (now 9:03 pm PDT). Businesses would probably not take advantage of earlier daylight hours, but could lose seasonal business with darker evening hours.

Think of businesses who operate outside in the evening in the summer, such as restaurants who offer al fresco dining. Will they have to close earlier than they do now because it will get dark an hour earlier under year-round ST? What about outdoor events scheduled while there is light on summer evenings? Sporting events such as evening baseball and soccer. Events at the Portland Waterfront. Outdoor concerts. County Fairs. Oregon Zoo nights. Evening farmers markets. Businesses at the coast. I believe there would be a negative economic impact to those businesses/organizations who depend on longer evening hours in the summer.

Second, has anyone examined the mental health effects of less sunlight on summer evenings but more sunlight at very early morning hours? Those who may have trouble with darker hours in the evening in the summer? What about people who already have trouble sleeping? With ST, the sun would rise before 4:30 am in June. How difficult will it be to keep sleeping with sunlight streaming through your window and songbirds are making loud noise outside? Work/school hours are not likely to change, so daylight at 4:30 am will probably not benefit many people but could affect the mental health of people who want to sleep past then.

Third, what about the health effects to summer outdoor workers under year-round ST? If sunrise is an hour earlier, the temperature will likely rise earlier in the day, yet for most outdoor jobs, the work would probably not begin an hour earlier. Think of construction workers, roadside workers, people working at parks and the Zoo, those in summer sports programs or outdoor camps. Oregon is having more extreme heat days, but with an earlier sunrise under year-round ST, there could be a major effect on those who work or play outside if the temperature gets hotter earlier in the day. Has there been any research on how earlier summer daylight and the heat might affect outdoor workers?

Fourth, is there consideration of those who frequently work with people on the East Coast? With a 4-hour difference for 7 ½ months per year between the East Coast

and Oregon under year-round ST, those working with the East Coast would have to start their workday an hour earlier much of the year.

What about those who travel to Washington or California? Their body clocks will be thrown off when they have to change time zones simply by heading north or south. What about all those who live in SW Washington but travel to jobs in Oregon? They would be switching time zones as least twice a day.

It seems like the OR Legislature is trying to push this bill though without truly understanding what the majority of Oregonians want. Has the Oregon Legislature done their due diligence and studied all of the ramifications of going to year-round ST?

Yes, there are health/safety arguments for a consistent time year-round and the plan to have year-round Daylight Saving Time has not yet received Federal approval. But what is the urgency in making a decision for year-round ST without truly understanding what Oregonians want and what would be the business, financial, health and safety impacts of year-round ST? Oregonians wanted year-round DST, which meant more light in the evening. Do you know that they now really want more darkness in the evenings for 7 ½ months of the year?

The expectation of daylight til 9:00 pm in June gives one hope in the dark days of winter. Please do not take that away from us. Life in Oregon would be fundamentally changed for the worse without Daylight Saving Time.