

## **Please Vote NO on Senate Bill 1548**

Dear Oregon Senators,

I'm writing to express strong opposition to SB 1548, a legislative proposal aimed at discontinuing the observance of Daylight Saving Time (DST) in Oregon, opting instead to remain on standard time throughout the entire year. While acknowledging some concerns related to time adjustments and their impacts, the complete elimination of DST is not the appropriate solution. Here are several reasons why SB 1548 should be voted down:

**Public Health and Safety:** Research has consistently demonstrated the correlation between daylight exposure and improved mental health and overall well-being. Daylight Saving Time aligns our waking hours with natural daylight, which has been linked to reduced instances of depression and Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). Furthermore, the extended daylight in the evening under DST reduces the likelihood of traffic accidents and pedestrian fatalities, as visibility is enhanced during peak commuting hours. Discontinuing DST as proposed in SB 1548 could compromise public health and safety outcomes.

Proponents of abolishing DST often cite examples such as Arizona and Hawaii, where DST is not observed. However, it's crucial to recognize that these states are located in significantly lower latitudes compared to Oregon. As a result, they do not experience the drastic changes in daylight hours throughout the year that Oregon does. Oregon's geographic location at a higher latitude makes it more susceptible to seasonal variations in daylight, making the benefits of DST more pronounced.

Sen. Sara Gelser Blouin, D-Corvallis, recently said on the Senate floor that she'd concluded that falling back and springing forward are necessary evils, since Oregon's northerly position on the globe ensures that sunrise will either come unreasonably early or unreasonably late without them.

"The real issue is that we are geographically in a place where, as inconvenient as it is, it probably makes sense that we change our clock twice a year," Gelser Blouin said.

**Economic Impact:** Daylight Saving Time has been shown to have positive effects on various sectors of the economy, including retail, tourism, and outdoor recreation. The extension of daylight hours during the evening allows for increased consumer spending and recreational activities, ultimately contributing to economic growth. By abolishing DST, SB 1548 risks undermining these economic benefits and potentially harming businesses and industries reliant on extended daylight hours. I was speaking with a friend of mine who is an IT professional and he noted that the challenges of recoding all the various software applications would be no small task. Further adding to the economic impact of this change.

**Regional Coordination and Interstate Commerce:** Oregon's decision to abolish DST independently could create logistical challenges and disrupt interstate commerce. Surrounding states and regions may continue to observe DST, leading to confusion and inconvenience for businesses, travelers, and residents navigating cross-border activities. By remaining consistent with neighboring states' timekeeping practices, Oregon can ensure seamless coordination and avoid unnecessary disruptions to regional commerce and transportation.

**Community Engagement and Quality of Life:** Daylight Saving Time fosters greater community engagement and social interaction by providing additional daylight hours for outdoor activities and community events. Families, friends, and neighbors benefit from the extended daylight in the evenings,

facilitating recreational pursuits and fostering stronger social bonds. Maintaining DST supports a higher quality of life for Oregonians by promoting active lifestyles and community cohesion.

**Environmental Considerations:** Daylight Saving Time promotes energy conservation by reducing the reliance on artificial lighting during the extended daylight hours in the evening. Studies have shown that DST results in decreased energy consumption, particularly in residential and commercial sectors. By extending daylight hours, DST aligns human activity with natural light cycles, leading to reduced electricity usage and environmental benefits. Discontinuing DST as proposed in SB 1548 could undermine these energy-saving efforts and hinder progress towards sustainability goals.

In conclusion, while concerns surrounding time adjustments, SB 1548's proposal to eliminate Daylight Saving Time altogether overlooks the numerous benefits associated with DST. We urge the Oregon Legislative Assembly to reconsider this proposal and explore alternative solutions that preserve the advantages of DST while mitigating any perceived drawbacks. By maintaining Daylight Saving Time, Oregon can continue to support economic prosperity, public health and safety, community well-being, regional coordination, and environmental sustainability.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Greg Belair

And numerous concerned citizens living in Tigard, Oregon