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On Behalf Of:
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Adopting permanent Standard Time is common sense legislation. This idea aligns with the world's standard of time (UTC), and UTC reflects the natural changes of the seasons that occur as a result of our planet's rotation, the tilt of the our planet's axis, and our planet's journey around the sun. When we finally launch permanent Standard Time, in that very first "We're staying in Standard Time!" spring and summer, a good many folks will be flummoxed. They will realize that staying in Standard Time does not mean we "lose" daylight. And they will then understand why proposals for permanent Daylight Savings time were nonsensical.

As we know, changing to permanent Daylight Saving Time (or Fake Time, as I call it) has been and still is under consideration in many states. Scores of experts have amassed data to support all kinds of positions on Time and why randomly changing Time is or isn't called for. Oregon Public Broadcasting (a total treasure) published a piece by Dirk VanderHart on 2/20/2024 about this bill's stalemate in the Oregon Senate. Mr VanderHart provided excellent context for the issue, including some pro-permanent DST arguments I hadn't heard before. He wrote, "Supporters of sticking with daylight saving time all year round ... cite research that suggests the change would save lives by cutting down on traffic fatalities during the evening commute. They also argue more light at night reduces crime, cuts back on collisions with deer and that it would be a waste to have the sun rising before 5 a.m. during summer months." Mr. VanderHart also quoted a law professor at a U.S. university: "The entire point of DST is to push daylight into the portion of the day when the vast majority of the public is awake, moving about town, and can enjoy the benefits of light vs. the dangers of darkness", and that "[t]hose benefits do not accrue if we move to permanent standard time."

Wow! Folks are missing an important point here. And this professor should stick to law. If we ever do enact permanent standard time, we must humbly keep in mind that the forces of nature will carry on, regardless of how we set our clocks. The amount of morning and evening daylight will still increase as the year unfolds, and therefore traffic fatalities would likely still decrease, as would crime and those awful deer collisions. Daylight wouldn't have to be pushed around anymore -- how wonderful is that? In Standard Time, all on its own, daylight will naturally fill additional hours of the day, whether or not the public is asleep or awake, moving about town in the light, or sitting in their basements coping with the dangers of darkness. Yes, the same benefits of more daylight in the summer months would indeed accrue if we move to permanent standard time.

The argument that gets me the most is, "it would be a waste to have the sun rising at 5 a.m." Where to start with this notion? First of all, does someone believe that it's possible to "have" the sun do anything? Plus, I doubt that the millions of folks in the U.S. who must start work before the crack of dawn consider a little light in their lives at that hour to be a waste. I also hear that "solar panels" do a great job of not "wasting" sun. Depending on one's location in the U.S., rays of the sun would first alight on solar panels even EARLIER in permanent Standard Time ... saving more energy and not wasting sun!

This is why I think that when the circumstances are right, we should stay on Standard Time permanently. I salute Senator Thatcher for focusing on this goal in a practical, non-partisan manner. I agree that Oregonians living in one time zone but working in another is a serious consideration. We should not create such a situation. I hope that the three West Coast states will work together to make this happen (Don't forget that many South Lake Tahoe CA residents work in casinos at Stateline, NV!)

The West is the Best!
Cecilia Herrman