

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES FAIRCLOUGH, Keller

Introduced: 2/23/09

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs, Labor and Commerce

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to end daylight saving time.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** 15 U.S.C. 260 - 267 (Uniform Time Act of 1966) establishes a system of
4 uniform time within standard time zones, and 15 U.S.C. 260a establishes daylight saving time
5 for the nation; and

6 **WHEREAS** daylight saving time originally began during World War I primarily to
7 save fuel by reducing the need to produce electrical power for artificial lighting; and

8 **WHEREAS** a recent study at the University of California, Santa Barbara, showed that
9 the introduction of daylight saving time in Indiana increased electricity costs by millions of
10 dollars; and

11 **WHEREAS** Alaska is called the Land of the Midnight Sun, so traditional notions of
12 dusk and dawn are irrelevant in much of the state; and

13 **WHEREAS**, before 1983, Alaska used five time zones that allowed for "sun time"
14 and "clock time" to be synchronized; and

15 **WHEREAS**, during transitions into and out of daylight saving time, people sensitive
16 to the time of sunrise and sunset experience a disruption of their circadian rhythm, a

1 recognized sleep disorder called jet lag; and

2 **WHEREAS** Alaska created "political time" in 1983, which is not based on the
3 position of the sun in the sky; and

4 **WHEREAS** during each transition into and out of daylight saving time, the nation's
5 productivity suffers while the population adjusts to the new time; and

6 **WHEREAS** many teachers and administrators in Alaska have suggested that there is a
7 disruption in student productivity as Alaska transitions into and out of daylight saving time;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS** a majority of Alaska's students go to school in the dark and return home
10 in the dark; and

11 **WHEREAS** Alaska rapidly gains and loses natural daylight, which makes the use of
12 daylight saving time pointless within days of its implementation; and

13 **WHEREAS** every transition into and out of daylight saving time requires the
14 population to waste time changing the settings on clocks and other items; and

15 **WHEREAS** communication technology has improved the ability of businesses to
16 interact with vendors around the world; and

17 **WHEREAS** there are benefits to the nation of not changing time during the year,
18 including the benefit to businesses of having a consistent time for communicating with their
19 business partners in other American time zones and international time zones;

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
21 Congress to end daylight saving time by repealing 15 U.S.C. 260a.

22 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
23 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
24 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of
25 Representatives; the Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of
26 Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
27 Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; and the Honorable Lisa
28 Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
29 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.