



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Anna Fairclough – House District 17

House Bill 19

“An Act exempting the state and its political subdivisions from daylight saving time.”

In direct response to a number of concerns raised by my constituents and various groups, such as K-12 educators, the elderly, northwestern rural communities, and others, we have been researching the possible repeal of Daylight Saving Time (DST) in Alaska.

It is clear, from two statewide polls done in 2004 and '05, that a strong majority of Alaskan's statewide favor the repeal of DST for a variety of reasons. As most of you know, in 1983, with congressional approval, Alaska consolidated its five time zones into two. This was done to better consolidate our communities and to enable better public services.

Alaska Standard Time (AST) now covers most of our state, with only a few Aleutian Islands in the other time zone. AST is one hour earlier than Pacific Standard Time and four hours earlier than Eastern Standard Time.

Daylight Saving Time was actually an idea that originated as an American domestic policy during World War I to save energy.

Some of the questions we have been asking in our research are:

- Does DST really save energy?
- Does DST adversely impact student performance?
- Does DST in Alaska provide more usable sunlight?
- Does DST have anything to do with farming?
- Has technology changed to improve communication within the business community?

I urge your support on this piece of Legislation

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