

2016

Additional Testimony

SB 6

- Cornelius, Don
- Esposito, Tari
- Alaska State Fair / Jerome Hertel
- Ballen, Bill
- Craig and Karen
- ALPS Federal Credit Union / King, Barbara
- Willis, Lynn
- Oliverson, Doug
- Alaska Chamber / Curtis Thayer

Nancy Manly

From: David Russell-Jensen
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 9:46 AM
To: Nancy Manly
Subject: FW: CSSB 6

Nancy, we received this letter of opposition to SB 6.

Can it be included on BASIS?

Thanks,
David

On Wed, Apr 6, 2016 at 9:32 AM, Don Cornelius <doncorn@gci.net> wrote:

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins and fellow members of the Alaska House State Affairs Committee:

Re CSSB 6 Eliminate Daylight Savings Time,

Let me begin by asking you what time it is today in Phoenix, Arizona? I'll give you a hint. In winter they lie in the Mountain Standard time zone. If you're like me you struggle with this question as I'm sure do most Alaskans.

If CSSB 6 passes, most Alaskans will constantly struggle with this question nationwide because we'll be out of sync with the rest of America — with our families and businesses with whom we deal. And, it will be a two-way street — perhaps even more of a problem for others doing business with Alaskans. You can expect a lot of phone calls at untimely hours and a lot of messages advising you of a company's business hours.

Supposedly the reason for CSSB 6 is public safety — that there are more accidents the day after the spring and fall time changes. I question whether it comes anywhere near the problem of Friday and Saturday night's traffic accidents when people are out "on the town" — or Friday and Sunday evenings when so many Alaskans head to and from weekend breaks. I suspect closing bars at 6:00 PM would have a greater affect on public safety yet I don't hear any calls for this action.

According to an October 31, 2014 article in Time Magazine, the real issue is driving in daylight vs darkness. More daylight in the evening makes the daily commute safer, hence a decrease in accidents in the evening and an argument for going on daylight saving year round. More daylight in mornings makes the morning commute safer and an argument for going off daylight savings. Further delving into the issue I discovered the periods of change from light to darkness and from darkness to light were the real culprits. So take your pick — safer commutes in the morning or evening — at least for part of the year.

Either way, in Alaska this Legislation does nothing about changing the earth's constant shifting tilt towards and away from the sun. We're always going to drive in the dark at some time of the day.

Studies also suggest the biggest problem is in the fall when we lose an hour of sleep, the result of which is more fatigued drivers — a problem that can be corrected by going to bed earlier during the change. Could this be compensated for by safer commutes in the spring when drivers are more rested?

I also find it puzzling that while this is a big issue for so many people when we're home in Alaska, it's no problem when we travel to other states — that Alaskans just take it in stride as part of our travel experience.

I think the real culprit, which is not addressed by this legislation is the unification of virtually all of Alaska into one unnatural time zone. I can't blame residents of more westerly portions of the State, even in Anchorage for resenting going to work in the dark during the spring and fall transitions. Yet, if this legislation is enacted, residents of southeast will see the reverse situation, more coming home in the dark. Remember, we already lost a summer evening hour back in 1982. This would make it two. We certainly will be spending more of our evenings in the dark, undoubtedly being indoors, or when we venture out to exercise in the dark, perhaps even have a higher pedestrian accident rate.

And what about our mental health when we get shortened daylight hours year round? I find I always get depressed in the fall when we transition from daylight saving to standard time. Sponsors of this legislation have not addressed the issue of mental health and in this era of reduced state budgets I doubt help will be available to address this issue.

In summary, please do not forward this ill-conceived legislation. The personal costs are higher than the sponsors have considered. And as you know, when you're out of sync, things do not go well.

April 8, 2015

TO: House State Affairs Committee Members

A DOZEN REASONS WE DON'T NEED DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME IN ALASKA:

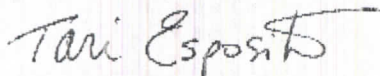
1. We live in the "Land of the Midnight Sun" with plenty of daylight for everyone.
2. Instant time change disturbs sleep patterns, impacting health and lifestyle, so who needs "state sponsored jet lag" twice each year.
3. There simply is no longer any compelling reason to impact 700,000 Alaskans, twice yearly with DST.
4. Where is a there any "daylight saving" because for every hour you delay sunset you also delay sunrise.
5. Wait a week and get more daylight anyway because most Alaskans gain 1 hour of natural daylight in the week DST starts
6. Modern communications technology and use of the internet allow business transactions 24/7.
7. Airlines and other international business use GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) for operations, which do not recognize DST.
8. Saving Energy is the official purpose for DST yet no Alaska utility claims a savings of energy because of the use of DST.
9. Most outside security lighting fixtures now operate on photo cells which respond to daylight, not time of day.
10. Changing time keeping devices to regulate temperature in commercial buildings is an added expense.
11. Changing the time of sunset or sunrise cannot control the tides or weather for work or recreation during daylight hours.
12. Even "The Nennana Ice Classic" ignores DST and marks the winning time using Alaska Standard Time

Also to repeat a recent informative news article written by State Senator, Anna MacKinnon:

"Studies continually demonstrate that the initial rationale behind DST -- energy conservation -- no longer holds true. One study done in Indiana even goes as far as to suggest that it costs the consumer more to be on DST than to be off. It has been half a century since the Uniform Time Act was implemented and our habits and our use of energy have changed. Electricity no longer dominates our household energy usage; alternatively, heating and cooling primarily dictate our usage."

In conclusion, it is a shameful rationale that some of those in the business community will suffer more (monetarily) than the health of the majority of Southeast residents that DST affects.

Respectfully submitted,



Tari Esposito, RN

Public Health Nurse

Cc: Senator Stedman

Representative Ortiz

Senator MacKinnon

Representative Kito



March 15, 2016

Representative Bob Lynn
State of Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 108
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Lynn;

Please accept this letter as Alaska State Fair, Inc.'s opposition to SB6 Legislation.

Why? This bill will rob Alaskans of many hours of daylight time in the afternoon and evening. It will have a huge negative impact on afternoon and evening leisure activities like baseball, golf, walking, hiking, fishing, outdoor festivals, etc. What the repeal of DST would mean to individual Alaskans and visitors is that darkness would cut all the aforementioned activities by one hour!!!! A summer evening in Alaska is a lovely thing, with long hours of daylight custom-made for hiking, boating, and fishing, or attending events like concerts, festivals, picnics, and kids' ball games. We are primarily an evening-based society where our discretionary time is concerned. After work, school, and other obligations are finished, we have the chance to enjoy some personal time for leisure, recreation, and relaxation. Please be mindful that the initial reason behind the creation of time zones and Daylight Savings Time was "to allow people to sleep while it's dark and work and play in the daylight!"

We estimate a **loss** of 238 hours of **evening daylight** over the course of the 34 weeks of DST. In exchange for having an hour of daylight chopped off of every evening from spring through fall, we would receive an extra hour of light in the morning, starting on average between 3:30 and 5:00 am, a time when most of Alaskans are asleep.

Typical business hours won't likely change to adapt to the loss of DST – the 9 to 5 workday will still end on schedule which determines the start time for evening activities. Business communications will also suffer, as Alaska is already out of sync enough with the East Coast by being four hours behind. If SB 6 passes, Alaska would then be 5 hours off East Coast time and 2 hours behind Seattle/Pacific time in conducting business for 2/3 of the year.

If the reason and motivation for change in DST is caused by the nuisance of "resetting our clocks twice a year," then we appeal to you to review and consider other alternatives before taking the proposed drastic step. **Please give thought to moving Alaska time forward an hour so that the state is essentially always on daylight savings time, which would also coincide with Pacific time for eight months out of the year.**

As General Manager of Alaska State Fair, Inc., I am directed by the ASF Board of Directors to join others that are negatively impacted by the proposed SB 6 to oppose it and share with you the consequences this Bill would have on our organization. The Alaska State Fair, celebrating its 80th year in 2016, is host to an average of 300,000 fairgoers, making it Alaska's biggest statewide annual event. Two-thirds (approximately 200,000) of our fairgoers attend the Fair from places outside the Matanuska Valley. This data creates paramount concern for the future and continued financial success of the Fair, and the adverse effect this bill would have on the Alaska State Fair is significant.

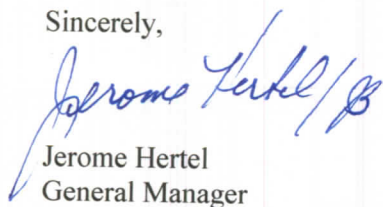
- A reduction of even one hour of evening daylight would have a major impact on attendance at the Fair, which in turn would cause a serious reduction in revenues -- not only to the Alaska State Fair itself, but also to its approximately 450 vendors, employing 1,700 Alaskans, with a total payroll exceeding \$1.5 million.
- Total annual payroll generated by the Alaska State Fair's activities (including vendors, contractors, and the corporate payroll) estimated to exceed \$3.5 million.
- The highly popular evening Fair concert series starts at 7:00 pm, which allows just enough time for Anchorage fairgoers (and others living outside the Mat Su Valley) to negotiate traffic, park their vehicles and be at the concert by start time.

- Currently sunset on September 1 is 9:08 pm, which allows ample time for a 90-minute show and a walk across the fairgrounds before darkness sets in. With the loss of DST, the sun will set at 8:08 pm, and either the fairgoers will be in pitch darkness for the last half of the show, or the concert would have to start an hour earlier. This would force fairgoers to choose between leaving work early in order to make it in time or not attending at all, which would severely affect ticket and Fair admission sales.
- With 2015 concert tickets sales of \$31,986 and revenue in excess of \$1 million, it is easy to see the magnitude of the negative impact the DST change could have on this venue alone.
- Additional lighting will need to be purchased and installed for safe exiting from the Borealis Theater.
- In addition, 50-plus Alaska non-profit organizations seize the opportunity to participate at the Fair in order to raise money as well as other resources for their cause. An example is the effect on public health, as reflected in a comment from a representative of the Blood Bank of Alaska, stating: "The Fair is our most important blood drive of the year, and every year we see an increase in the number of donors." It is obvious that the change in DST would have far-reaching effects in the socio-economic structure of our state.
- According to a recent economic impact study, the Alaska State Fair and its related activities are responsible for generating \$22.5 million in spending and payroll that would not otherwise exist.
- The exact economic impact the DST change would have on the Fair is unknown; however, applying a conservative estimate of a 20% percent decrease to the figures in the economic impact study, Alaska State Fair, Inc. could realize a \$4.5 million decrease in economic impact if SB 6 passes. This negative impact on sales/revenue would extend far beyond the Fair, i.e. to vendors, nonprofits, local businesses and the City of Palmer sales tax income base.

In summary, Alaska State Fair, Inc. opposes SB 6 - Eliminate Daylight Savings Time and advocates for considering all the options to find the best solution that truly improves quality of life for individuals and does not negatively affect Alaska businesses.

I am available to discuss this matter in more detail upon your request. Your favorable consideration to the above would be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Jerome Hertel
General Manager
907-746-7162
jerome@alaskastatefair.org

Nancy Manly

From: Rep. Bob Lynn
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 10:24 AM
To: Nancy Manly
Subject: FW: SB 6 Daylight Saving Time

DST

Esther Mielke

Office of Representative Bob Lynn

Session Office Phone: 907-465-4931

Toll-Free: 800-870-4931

State Capitol Room 108

Juneau AK, 99801

From: bballen [mailto:bballen@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 10:06 AM
To: Rep. Bob Lynn
Cc: jerome@alaskastatefair.org
Subject: SB 6 Daylight Saving Time

Good morning Representative Lynn. As you know, the Alaska State Fair is interested in subject legislation. As we have communicated prior with you and members of the State Affairs Committee, passage of SB 6 would have a significant negative impact on the Alaska State Fair operations and their ability to provide "world class" entertainment and education opportunities to Alaska residents and visitors to our state.

The regular legislative session has about two weeks before sine die, in your opinion will the legislation be passed out of your committee prior to adjournment?

You've got a tough job Bob, but I'm pleased that you and your colleagues are not in a "panic mode". As a state, we've had our problems, but with hard work and dedicated people serving.....we survived! Stay on course.

Bill

Nancy Manly

Subject:

End the Useless DST in AK

From: kaadse@hotmail.com

To: rep.bob.lynn@akleg.gov

Subject: End the Useless DST in AK

Date: Tue, 29 Mar 2016 14:37:32 -0800

<http://www.endalaskadaylightsaving.com/>

This has all the information you need to end the Useless Daylight Savings Time in Alaska!

All points are RIGHT ON but Notice the Public Health and Safety! How many years and times does it take to end it?

Thanks,

Craig and Karen

907-452-4940

Nancy Manly

From: Barbara King <Barbara@alpsfcu.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 8:32 AM
To: Nancy Manly
Subject: SB6 written testimony

Good morning,

I just wanted to take a minute to cast my vote for the discontinuation of daylight savings time.

It hasn't served a purpose for Alaska. It doesn't save any electricity. Which I believe was the original purpose.

Thank you for your time. Have a great day.

Barbara King

Branch Manager

ALPS Federal Credit Union

Petersburg Branch

NMLS# 1162930

907 772-2900

907 772-2901 fax

Sent from a secure email

There is no compelling reason to continue to force the entire population of Alaska to put up with this public irritant of clock changing twice each year for the convenience of a few, albeit a few with political influence. Why would you create or enforce any law absent a compelling reason?

I see no purpose to further argue the merits of repeal. I and others have done that multiple times since 1999 at the many hearings on this subject.

Another three bills (SB6, SB11, and HB64) all with the Short Title: "Eliminate Daylight Saving Time" have been introduced before this current legislature. Now all three are being subjected to the same fate as their predecessors which include HB4 (1999 - 21st Legislature); HB409 (2002 - 22nd Legislature); HB176 and SB120 (2005 - 24th Legislature) and HB19 (2009 - 26th Legislature). HB19 passed the House then was held to death in the Senate. Every one of these previous bills to end the use of Daylight Saving Time in Alaska died when various committee chairpersons, with no explanation required, simply held these bills to death before various committees of referral or refused to allow the bill to be scheduled for a floor vote.

SB6 passed the Alaska Senate by a margin of 16 to 4 last April. That vote followed the vetting of this bill using the hearing process – a process open to all Alaskans; however, another process for influencing legislation is reserved for Alaskans with money such as the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce. I was told by the former President of the State Chamber of Commerce that she didn't think SB6 would "get that kind of traction". Since that Senate vote was unacceptable to the opponents they resorted to that alternate process of influencing the Alaska Legislature. They hired a lobbyist and funded a public relations campaign. Now a year later SB6 is effectively facing defeat by simply being ignored to death until the end of session. I expect this committee has (and might still) hold this bill to insure it has little chance of clearing the next committee of referral, the House Finance Committee; a referral added despite SB6 having a "zero" fiscal note. Why a finance referral other than to stall? If this legislation will indeed impact the state budget, and should be vetted by House Finance, then why was it not heard during the hiatus invoked by HCR 23? Even if it was to move out of House Finance apparently a failsafe death knell awaits in the House Rules Committee. Should I believe the Anchorage radio talk show host who broadcast her understanding that this bill will not pass the current "gatekeeper" a term used to describe the chair of the Rules Committee?

Despite all the vetting since 1999, this bill was held for "additional information" to be gathered by a sub-committee. That sub-committee hearing was completely focused on changing the bill title apparently to further obfuscate the issue by blending the state's right to end the practice of observing DST with the federal authority to change time zones. The subject of repeal was not broached and public testimony was not allowed.

I will close with an excerpt from the transcript of the last hearing on SB6 held before the entire House State Affairs committee held on April 9, 2015:

Testimony regarding SB 6 (Eliminate Daylight Saving Time)
Lynn Willis, Eagle River

April 3, 2016

CHAIR LYNN acknowledged that the sponsor was carrying the bill in response to her constituents. Regarding the business community, he stated that it seems somebody had hired a lobbyist to oppose SB6. He questioned why the business community would spend "something like \$10,000 to oppose SB6 unless it was "pretty important to them". He added, "it's even on [television] (TV) now".

Should I conclude that if the supporters of SB6 had spent \$11,000 dollars the situation would be different?

Thank you for your time.

Lynn Willis

Nancy Manly

From: Rep. Bob Lynn
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 9:56 PM
To: Nancy Manly
Subject: Fwd: Daylight ST

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S® 6, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Oliverson Douglas
Date: 2/11/2016 6:26 PM (GMT-09:00)
To: "Rep. Bob Lynn"
Subject: Daylight ST

Bob, please stay the course to work on the States budget crisis.
The Daylight Savings issue is not worth spending any air on.
Don't let the Senate waste time this year with non budget meetings
Thanks for your hard work.
Doug Oliverson



February 10, 2016

The Honorable Bob Lynn
Alaska House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol, Room 108
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: Opposition to CS SB 6 (FIN) – Elimination of Daylight Savings Time

Representative Lynn: *Bob*

The Alaska Chamber respectfully opposes the current version of Senate Bill 6, an act exempting the state from Daylight Savings Time (DST).

The Chamber is an organization dedicated to improving the business environment in Alaska. The Chamber represents hundreds of businesses from Ketchikan to Barrow that share a common goal – to make Alaska a viable and competitive place to do business. While we believe SB 6 is well intentioned, the Chamber has long opposed eliminating DST due to the anticipated, negative impact on Alaska's business community. The last time the Chamber conducted a survey of its members on this issue over 70 percent of Chamber members opposed eliminating DST.

Alaska's placement on the globe is one that provides us with strategic advantages for shipping, transportation, military deployment and telecommunications. However, our location also provides significant challenges for conducting regular business with partners outside Alaska, particularly those on the East Coast. SB 6, as proposed, would increase those challenges for the bulk of the year, creating a five-hour time difference between Alaska and the East Coast of the United States, and a two-hour difference with our key economic partners in the Pacific Northwest and along the West Coast.

SB 6 would create unnecessary new hurdles for Alaska businesses dealing in financial markets, global trade, logistics and tourism. The concern about throwing Alaska businesses out of synch with financial markets is real and would impact banks, traders, investors and other members of the Alaska finance community.

Alaska's visitor industry will be impacted as well. Eliminating DST would require cruise ships to depart at least one hour earlier than currently scheduled to achieve parity with Pacific Daylight Time. In Ketchikan, such earlier departures are

equivalent to a loss of 30 days in port representing a significant loss of economic activity.

The Chamber believes the impact of eliminating DST currently outweighs any potential benefits, and passage of SB 6 should be postponed until DST is eliminated at the federal level. Such a change at the federal level would allow Alaska to maintain the current time zone differentiations across the United States.

Alaska businesses are the key source of State funding and face plenty of challenges over the next few years. Today's financial reality of sustained lower oil prices will necessarily constrict State spending which will impact every Alaska community. Eliminating DST will further disadvantage Alaska businesses by reducing the number of hours to interface with business partners, advisors, customers, and suppliers for a substantial portion of the year. Now is not the time to add new challenges to doing business in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Curtis W. Thayer
President and CEO

CC: Representative Wes Keller
Representative Shelly Hughes
Representative David Talerico
Representative Liz Vazquez
Representative Louise Stutes
Representative Max Gruenberg
Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins