

March 7, 2026

House State Affairs Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Written Testimony in Support of HB 229 (Permanent Alaska Standard Time)

Dear Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of House Bill 229, which would permanently adopt Alaska Standard Time and eliminate the twice yearly clock change. I have submitted separate written testimony in opposition to SB 26, which details at length the health consequences of chronic solar time misalignment, the failed history of the 1983 time zone consolidation, and the absence of a credible commercial justification for moving Alaska to Pacific Standard Time. I will not repeat those arguments here but respectfully ask that both pieces of testimony be considered together.

HB 229 is the correct solution to a problem that nearly everyone agrees on. Alaskans overwhelmingly want to stop changing their clocks twice a year. The question before this committee is not whether to end the clock change but how to do it without making things worse. HB 229 answers that question cleanly.

First, HB 229 does not require federal approval. Under existing federal law, any state may exempt itself from daylight saving time and remain on its standard time. Hawaii and Arizona have already done this. Alaska can do the same without petitioning the U.S. Department of Transportation for a time zone reassignment, without waiting on Congress, and without any uncertainty about whether the federal government will act. HB 229 is entirely within the Legislature's authority to enact.

Second, HB 229 preserves whatever solar alignment Alaskans currently have rather than degrading it further. The 1983 consolidation already pushed Interior and Southcentral Alaska approximately one hour beyond natural solar time. SB 26 would add a second hour. HB 229 holds the line. It does not fix the 1983 distortion, but it does not compound it either. That alone makes it the responsible choice.

Third, HB 229 gives Alaskans the outcome they actually want. When residents say they are tired of changing their clocks, they are not asking to have their sunrise moved to noon. They are asking for consistency. HB 229 delivers that consistency without imposing the health consequences, the disrupted school mornings, and the deepened winter darkness that would accompany a shift to Pacific Standard Time.

I urge this committee to advance HB 229 and to reject SB 26. The Legislature has an opportunity to do something genuinely beneficial for every Alaskan in this state. HB 229 is that opportunity.

Respectfully,

Joseph S. Russo  
Fairbanks, Alaska