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March 26, 2026

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Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in opposition to HB229 and in support of SB26. The Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce represents a broad cross-section of businesses, employers, and organizations across our community.

The Chamber maintains a standing priority to support a strong and sustainable visitor industry, recognizing the central role it plays in Juneau's economy. The visitor industry is a cornerstone of Southeast Alaska's economy—the region's largest source of jobs and wages—powering a broad network of local businesses and economic activity across retail, dining, and transportation.

From this perspective, the timing of available daylight is not simply a matter of preference—it is directly tied to business operations and economic output. In Southeast Alaska, visitor-dependent businesses rely on evening daylight to operate, particularly during the late summer and early fall shoulder season.

Proposals that reduce usable evening daylight during this period would compress an already short operating window, resulting in fewer tours, reduced customer activity, and broader impacts across the local economy. These effects are immediate and measurable for many businesses in our region.

We recognize that there are other considerations in this discussion, including interest in ending seasonal clock changes and maintaining alignment with other time zones. However, based on input from our membership—including larger employers—time zone alignment does not appear to carry the same level of economic consequence as the loss of usable daylight for Southeast Alaska's visitor industry.



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Given the importance of this sector to our regional economy, we encourage the Legislature to prioritize approaches that maintain or extend evening daylight in Southeast Alaska. Policies that reduce available operating hours during the shoulder season would have a disproportionate impact on one of Alaska's key economic engines.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like the Chamber to provide additional input as this discussion continues.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Parks

Rebecca Parks
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corey Baxter".

Corey Baxter
Board President