



April 30, 2026

The Honorable Ashley Carrick, Chair
House State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Daylight Saving Time Policy

Dear Chair Carrick and Members of the House State Affairs Committee:

The Alaska Bankers Association (AKBA) respectfully writes to express its support for SB 26 and its opposition to HB 229, both of which address the issue of daylight saving time (DST) in Alaska. AKBA represents financial institutions that depend on consistent alignment with national and global markets, and for our industry, time synchronization is not simply a matter of convenience but a critical component of daily operations, including financial transactions, communications, and settlement systems.

While both bills seek to eliminate Alaska's observance of daylight saving time, they differ in ways that have significant economic implications. SB 26 takes a measured and coordinated approach by petitioning the U.S. Department of Transportation to move Alaska into the Pacific Standard Time zone and conditioning the elimination of DST on that federal action. In contrast, HB 229 would unilaterally exempt Alaska from DST on a set effective date without any federal coordination. This distinction is critical. SB 26 ensures that any transition occurs in alignment with federal authority and broader national timekeeping practices, while HB 229 would place Alaska out of sync with the rest of the country.

As AKBA has previously noted in its opposition to similar legislation, unilateral elimination of DST would create meaningful disruptions to Alaska's economy. If Alaska remains on standard time while most of the country continues to observe DST, the time difference with West Coast markets would expand to two hours and with East Coast markets to five hours during much of the year. This increased separation would reduce the already limited overlap in business hours with major financial centers, constraining the ability of Alaska-based institutions to conduct wire transfers, participate in securities markets, communicate with counterparties, and complete time-sensitive transactions. Given Alaska's geographic remoteness, maintaining strong temporal alignment with national markets is essential to efficient commerce, and further isolation would be detrimental to economic activity across multiple sectors.

SB 26 provides a more thoughtful path forward by recognizing the desire to eliminate DST while ensuring that any change is implemented in a way that minimizes economic harm. By first

seeking to realign Alaska's time zone and requiring federal approval, the bill reflects the same "convenience of commerce" standard used by federal regulators in making time zone determinations. This approach balances quality-of-life considerations with the practical realities of interstate commerce and avoids the unintended consequences that would result from unilateral action.

For these reasons, the Alaska Bankers Association respectfully urges the Committee to support SB 26 and oppose HB 229. Thank you for your consideration of our views and for your attention to the economic implications of this policy decision.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a small loop.

Sam Mazzeo, President
Alaska Bankers Association

Cc: Members of the House State Affairs Committee
Senator Kelly Merrick
Representative Ky Holland