



8991 Yandukin Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

March 11, 2024

The Honorable Forrest Dunbar
Chair, Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: SB 184, An Act exempting the state from daylight saving time; and providing for an effective date.

Dear Senator Dunbar and SCRA Committee Members:

Following up on Ward Air CFO Tom Williams' testimony before the Senate Community & Regional Affairs (SCRA) Committee last Tuesday afternoon, we strongly urge the committee to either:

- A. Not pass SB 184 as written out of the committee; or
- B. Amend the bill to make daylight saving time year-round, subject to the necessary federal approvals, similar to the current language in SSHB 284.

While we very much appreciate and agree with the sponsor's desire to eliminate the twice-a-year changing of our clocks from Alaska standard time to daylight saving time in the spring and then back again in the fall, eliminating daylight saving time in Alaska would have several very adverse effects on Alaska's visitor industry and financial managers as well as the personal well-being of Alaskans.

For example, had Alaska remained on standard time yesterday, today and for the next eight months there would be a two hour difference between Alaska and lower-48 west coast states, complicating and impairing efficient commerce with the lower-48 businesses with which Alaskans do business.

In addition, the financial markets on the east coast would be 5 hours ahead of Alaska instead of the current 4 hours, again further complicating Alaskans' need to interact with those markets.

The shortening of the evening daylight hours for the eight spring, summer and fall months would have a significant adverse effect on Alaska's visitor industry, especially during the shoulder months of April, May, August, and September. Visitors want to be able to

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experience as much of Alaska in the daylight and the visitor industries throughout the state want to be able to accommodate them as much as possible. Reducing evening daylight will mean lost revenue to our visitor industry and less visitor enjoyment of all that Alaska has to offer.

And finally, and perhaps as important as anything else, reducing evening daylight hours will reduce Alaskans' opportunity to enjoy our many outdoor activities throughout the state, thereby reducing our health and well-being.

However, making daylight saving time permanent instead of standard time permanent, would not only end the twice-a-year changing of our clocks it would:

1. Maintain the existing daylight hours in the summer that are critical for the Alaska visitor industry to maximize visitor excursions, as well as Alaskans' opportunities to enjoy our state;
2. Extend daylight hours later in the day during the winter, allowing for later flight operations and more after school daylight hours; and
3. Reduce the time zone difference between Alaska and the east coast financial markets to three hours instead of four hours during the winter, thereby having a positive effect on all financial managers, including those of the Permanent Fund Corporation.

We also understand that the three other west coast states are supporting year-round daylight savings time, as well as potentially British Columbia. For the reasons listed above, Alaska should join our neighbors in this effort to have the US Department of Transportation approve year-round daylight savings time for all four west coast states, if not the entire United States.

Sincerely,



Edward K. Kiesel
President

cc: *Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee Members*
The Honorable Sen. Jesse Kiehl