

# ALASKA BANKERS ASSOCIATION

ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 18, 2024

The Honorable Kelly Merrick  
Chair, Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 504  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Opposition to SB 102 - Eliminate Daylight Saving Time

Dear Senator Merrick:

The Alaska Bankers Association (AKBA) wishes to respectfully inform you of its opposition to SB 102 exempting the State of Alaska from daylight saving time (DST) unless a conditional provision is added requiring Congress to first eliminate DST across the country. While we appreciate the intent of promoting greater wellbeing among Alaskans, practically speaking, permanently moving Alaska to standard time when most of the country continues to observe daylight saving time would adversely impact business, transportation, communication, and overall economic activity.

Currently, Alaska is on Alaska Daylight Time, which is UTC-8. The US West Coast is on Pacific Daylight Time, UTC-7, and the US East Coast is on Eastern Daylight Time, UTC-4. This means there is a one-hour time difference between Alaska and the US West Coast and a four-hour time difference between Alaska and the US East Coast. If Alaska were to eliminate daylight saving time and not "spring forward," it would remain on Alaska Standard Time, which is UTC-9, while states on the US West and East Coasts would still shift in the summer months to DST. This would result in a two-hour time difference between Alaska and the US West Coast and a five-hour time difference between Alaska and the US East Coast during the period when daylight saving time is observed by the rest of the country.

Alaska's remote western geography challenges us to better harmonize and optimize our financial, industrial, transportation, and communications links to the east. Reducing the synchrony of our existing time zone from major North American markets would be highly disruptive to Alaskan commerce and efficient business organization. To distance Alaska one hour further behind our national markets and money centers, as SB 102 proposes to do, would reduce the time available in which to conduct daily business such as wire transfers, investment transactions, communications, and settlements.

Given the tradeoff between interrupting sleep patterns twice yearly and the coordination problems SB 102 would present to economic life in Alaska year-round, we believe coordination problems to be the more consequential. The U.S. Department of Transportation is the federal agency responsible for managing time zones in the U.S., and just as its principal standard for deciding on a time change is the "convenience of commerce," AKBA urges the Alaska Legislature to, likewise, weigh maintaining a more efficient marketplace over accommodating personal preference.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd MacManus", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Todd MacManus, Vice-President  
Alaska Bankers Association

Cc: Members of the Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee