

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, Alaska 99711

[REDACTED]
(Home: North Pole, AK)

Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Juneau AK, 99801

March 10, 2025

Re: **“Yes” on SB 102, “No” on SB 26**

Dear Members of the Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee,

The position of the sun in the sky relative to the clocks on our walls influences so much of what we do. Much scientific evidence supports the claim that human well-being is higher when we follow natural daily rhythms (e.g., sun being due south at clock noon) than when we follow a kinked system of advanced or delayed clock time. Our huge State really should have three timezones: GMT-9 for Juneau, GMT-10 for Anchorage and Fairbanks, and GMT-11 for the Aleutians. Instead, the whole state is currently at GMT-9 in the winter (AKST) and GMT-8 in the summer (Daylight Saving Time, AKDT). For those of us in central Alaska, this puts the sun due south at 2 PM during the summer! And we have the annual, depressing ‘setback’ in the Spring, when we lose early morning daylight that has been hard-won over preceding months – today actually being the first work day of this broken schedule for 2025.

I know of no sensible reason to continue to change to Summer Time, and the days of this switching are probably numbered. However *which time* to fix on is the question. Today you have before you a Bill (**SB 102**) which would fix our state time on Standard Time (AKST, GMT-9). While not as optimal as fixing the time on GMT-10, it is *far preferable* than the alternative of fixing on Daylight Saving Time, and I urge you to say **“Yes” to SB 102** and pass it onward to a floor vote.

There are also two Bills in the Legislature this session (SB 26 and HB 41) which would have us fixed on permanent Daylight Savings Time (GMT-8). These Bills ignore the huge mental toll on all Alaskans of living so far out of kilter with the natural rhythm of sunlight. These are *hugely misguided* Bills, and I beg you to vote **“No” on SB 26** today and on both of them should they come up for floor vote.

For me personally, the greatest reason to chose SB 102 over the alternatives is because I spend much of my life in the back country and often navigate by the sun. It is far easier, and safer, to have a sun that is closer to due south at clock noon than one far off due south.

Many thanks for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]