

February 24, 2015

Additional testimony regarding Senate Bill (SB) 6 – Repeal of Daylight Saving Time in Alaska

From: Lynn Willis, 10140 Hillcrest Lane, Eagle River, Alaska 99577

To: Senate Finance Committee, Alaska State Legislature

To address two recent proposals relating to this issue, I would like to add two additional comments to my previously submitted testimony supporting SB6 dated February 6, 2015.

The first comment is to refute the argument that if SB6 was to become law, in a gesture of “compromise”, we should then petition the Federal Government to allow the current Alaska Time Zone to merge with the current Pacific Time Zone. The Pacific Time Zone is permanently one hour ahead of the current Alaska Time Zone so this action would advance clocks permanently yet another hour in the current Alaska Time Zone. While this idea might be acceptable to some (particularly to the residents of South East Alaska wishing to return to the same Time Zone as Seattle) I suggest it would simply be unacceptable for the majority of Alaskans who reside elsewhere in the State and desire to have morning light. In a few days on March 8th Alaska will again observe Daylight Saving Time. According to the US Naval Observatory, on the day before we observe DST this year (March 7th) sunrise in my home in South Central Alaska will occur at 7:42am which is one hour later than it was prior to the 1983 time zone change. If Anchorage was currently in the Pacific Time Zone sunrise on March 7th would occur at 8:42am and would have been one hour later for the entire year. The onset of DST on March 8th will advance clocks one hour changing the time of sunrise to 8:39am with an immediately loss of 59 minutes of morning light from the previous day. I do not want to delay sunrise for the entire year any more than we have done already. Therefore, because of a loss of additional morning light, I say “no thank you” to those who see the solution to this problem as permanently advancing my clocks even yet another hour to allow the current Alaska Time Zone to join the Pacific Time Zone.

The second comment relates to the suggestion that if SB6 becomes law than we can exempt a portion of Alaska and allow that portion to observe DST. Unfortunately, current Federal Law does not allow that option without placing that portion of Alaska into another Time Zone:

15 U.S. Code § 260a - Advancement of time or changeover dates

(1) any State that lies entirely within one time zone may by law exempt itself from the provisions of this subsection providing for the advancement of time, but only if that law provides that the entire State (including all political subdivisions thereof) shall observe the standard time otherwise applicable during that period, and (2) any State with parts thereof in more than one time zone may by law exempt either the entire State as provided in (1) or may exempt the entire area of the State lying within any time zone.

Thank you. Lynn Willis