

February 22, 2015

Dear Senate Finance Co-Chairs Senator MacKinnon and Senator Pete Kelly and Senators Micciche, Bishop, Dunleavy, Hoffman and Olson,

I'm writing to let you know that I think most people in Southeast Alaska are opposed to shortening daylight hours by eliminating Daylight Savings Time (DST). I agree with Senator MacKinnon that there are many health problems associated with taking away more evening daylight hours. Please amend SB 6 and place Southeast Alaska on Pacific Time to equalize the daylight experience for all Alaskans. Before Alaska's time zones were consolidated, Southeast Alaska was on Pacific Time.

It seems unfair that Southeast would experience yet another loss of daylight hours with the elimination of DST, which has a negative effect on the residents, for all the same reasons Sen. MacKinnon has identified in her sponsor statement.

In a recent "My Turn" piece in the Juneau Empire (2-15-15). Mark Johnson sums up the issue by stating, "Currently, there are three bills pending in the Alaska Legislature that would eliminate daylight savings time (HB64, SB6 and SB11). If any of these bills passes, Southeast Alaskans will experience two fewer hours of daylight in the evenings than they had before 1983." I'm requesting that Southeast Alaska not lose another daylight hour under your proposal. We need more light in the evening.

The "My Turn" article made other important points:

If this legislation passes, on the summer solstice in SE, "our sunset would be a few minutes after 9 p.m. (only about a half hour later than the sunset in Chicago, for example). Our sunrise on that date would be 2:51 a.m. By the end of August, our sunsets would be at 7:00 p.m. and our sunrise would be at 4:55 a.m."

We know how valuable late-evening ventures are to Alaskans – especially when we are trying to get the most out of those last days of summer in August and September. If SB 6 proposal passes without amendment, evening hours would be diminished to the detriment of the 74,280 Southeast Alaskans.

Please do not support bills in the Legislature that would eliminate daylight savings time for SE Alaska. If SB 6 passes without an exception for Southeast Alaskans, we will experience two fewer hours of daylight in the evenings than we had before 1983, as well as all of the negative effects that transpire when we experience more darkness. Please amend SB 6 to place Southeast Alaska back on Pacific Time.

Regards,

*Kimberly Homme*

Kimberly Homme, PO Box 20473, Juneau, AK 99802

(& Property owner in the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the Anchorage Municipality)

cc: Senator Egan and Representatives Kito and Munoz