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March 2, 2015

Senate Finance Co-Chairs: Senator Anna MacKinnon and Senator Pete Kelly Senators Peter Micciche, Click Bishop, Mike Dunleavy, Lyman Hoffman and Donald Olson

Re: Senate Bill 6 – Repeal of Daylight Savings Time

The Juneau Chamber of Commerce represents a membership of approximately 400 businesses in Juneau. Based upon feedback from some of our members, we took the time to conduct a member survey regarding the repeal of *Daylight Savings Time*. Our survey was responded to by over 25% of our membership. The results were: 74% of the respondents opposed the repeal of DST; 20% were in favor and 6% had no opinion. The strong response to the survey and the significant majority in opposition of the bill results in the Juneau Chamber of Commerce <u>opposing the repeal</u> of Daylight Savings Time.

The two most common reasons heard in discussions:

1) The loss of an hour of daylight for flight operations, boat charters and related tourism activities, especially on the shoulder months of March/April and August/September, is viewed as detrimental to those business activities. Whether it's personal recreation or chartered access to experience and enjoy the beauty and resources of Southeast Alaska, we all understand that it happens in the few short months of summer. Losing daylight at the end of our summer days takes away business opportunities and reduces our personal time to enjoy the quality of life in Alaska.

 Creating a two-hour differential between here and the Pacific Northwest, and a five-hour differential between here and the east coast, takes away an additional hour of opportunity to conduct business, which is already compressed.
Having a time zone that doesn't shift with our adjacent markets will create its own level of confusion and require that certain business activities be conducted even earlier in the day than currently occurs. We understand and respect the health-related concerns presented by the bill's sponsor, but believe that Daylight Savings Time should remain in place.

Respectfully,

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Craig E. Dahl Executive Director Juneau Chamber of Commerce

cc: Senator Dennis Egan Representative Sam Kito Representative Cathy Munoz