

Lynn Willis, Eagle River, Alaska, March 3, 2015- Testimony SB6

I am representing myself. I support this legislation.

I have previously submitted testimony regarding this legislation. As in past years, to date the proponents of keeping DST have not presented a clear and compelling justification to require over 700,000 Alaskans to participate in observance of this archaic law twice each year. The intent of federal law authorizing DST is to save energy, and again no testimony indicates a reduction of energy costs to Alaskans by observing DST in Alaska.

Yet the Alaska state government has refused to end this practice and we about to participate in DST once again. This Saturday, March 7th, according the US Naval Observatory, sunrise in Southcentral will occur at 7:42 am. On Sunday March 8th Daylight Saving Time begins and sunrise will occur at 8:39am for an instant loss of almost an hour of morning light. The effect will certainly be seen (and still felt by many) on Monday morning as commuters, kids waiting for a school buses, and many who work outdoors deal with the return of morning darkness. This weekend begins the period of "double" and even "triple daylight saving time until November 1st for those Alaskans who advanced clocks one or two hours permanently in 1983.

My motive to testify again on SB6 is that yesterday I heard of a possible effort to expand SB6 to include the topic of Time Zone change in Alaska. I appreciate the concern of some who want to change time zones, however; I am very wary of this, perhaps well intended effort, if it results in the co-opting of this latest repeal effort as the opponents of SB6 began to call for a delay in ending the use of DST in Alaska while the effort to realign time zones continues.

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Documents submitted in support of SB6 indicate that changing clocks to observe Daylight Saving Time and/or suffering the insult to our human circadian rhythm, appears to be as unpopular with Alaskans as it ever has been. I urge you to enact SB6 to end the use of DST in Alaska during this legislative session. Please move this bill. Thank you.