



The Honorable Dan Ortiz
State Capitol Room 513
Juneau, AK 99801

April 21st, 2021

Re: HB 31, An Act relating to daylight saving time

Dear Representative Ortiz:

I write to you today in strong support of HB 31. We sincerely thank you for introducing this important legislation.

We are a Juneau based floatplane operator providing glacier flightseeing tours to the historic Taku Lodge. Daylight hours for flightseeing have a direct impact on our business model. It is vital that we operate on the DST schedule to optimize our ability to meet our customers needs in an efficient manner. In addition, we also support HB 31, to reduce the negative impact of time changes to our coworkers, children, and our community.

Additionally, with the recent pandemic and economic catastrophe related to the tourism industry, particularly in Southeast Alaska, maximizing any opportunity to build back a strong economy is crucial.

This legislation would be a powerful and successful solution to the ongoing debate of stabilizing the year round use of time zone seasonality. One year-round time zone is the solution in the form of permanent Daylight Saving Time. The alternative version has been proposed in the past and we actively spoke in opposition due to the unintentional negative consequences it would have had on our business, and countless other similar operators.

By making DST permanent instead of Standard Time, this bill would not only end the twice-a-year changing of our clocks (and loss of sleep) it would also:

1. Maintain the existing daylight hours in the summer that are critical for the Alaska tourist industry to maximize tourist excursions;

2. Extend daylight hours later in the day during the winter, allowing for later flight operations and more after school daylight hours; and
3. Reduce the time zone difference between Alaska and the east coast financial markets to three hours instead of four hours during the winter, thereby having a positive effect on all financial managers, including those of the Permanent Fund Corporation.

This concept is picking up both regionally and nationally, and has support from many industries and individuals. Three other west coast states are supporting year-round DST, as is British Columbia. For the reasons listed above, Alaska should join our neighbors in this effort to have the US Department of Transportation approve year-round DST for all four west coast states, if not the entire United States.

We look forward to supporting this legislation in any way we can, including testifying in favor at legislative hearings.

Thank you on behalf of the owners and employees of Wings Airways & the Taku Glacier Lodge,



Holly Johnson
President

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cc: *State Affairs Committee Members*
The Honorable Rep. Louise Stutes, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Sen. Peter Micciche, Alaska Senate President
The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy, Governor of Alaska