

SB

6

<TARGET><BILL>SB 6</BILL><SUBJECT>SB
6</SUBJECT><COMM>SFIN29</COMM></TARGET>

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 2/11/15

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: _____

Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 6

SB 6-ELIMINATE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

"An Act exempting the state from daylight saving time; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

- be replaced with CS SB 6 (FIN) [] Same Title [] New Title
- [] adopt previous CS _____ (_____) [] Same Title [] New Title
- [] attached amendment(s)
- [] adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- [] further referral to _____ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LWF
CED	LAW
COR	LEG
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
ADM			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1

[] APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	MICCICHE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	Bishop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	Dunleavy			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	O'Connell			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Hoffman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
CO-CHAIR:	Kelly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
CO-CHAIR:	Mackinnon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			



Alaska State Legislature

Senator Anna MacKinnon — Senate District G

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 6

"An Act exempting the state from daylight saving time; and providing for an effective date."

This bill is in direct response to a number of concerns raised by my constituents, fellow Alaskans, and various groups that would like to repeal daylight saving time in Alaska.

The idea for daylight saving time originated in Europe and was introduced to the United States in 1918 when Congress placed the nation on daylight saving time for seven months in order to conserve resources for World War I. Since then the United States has had multiple iterations of federal policy for daylight saving time and we currently operate under the Uniform Time Act of 1966. Later, daylight saving time was extended by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 so we now observe daylight saving time between the second Sunday in March and the first Sunday in November. Under the Uniform Time Act, Alaska has the authority to exempt ourselves from daylight saving time and stay on standard time year-round.

Studies have shown that there are adverse effects on our health, sleep cycles, work productivity, safety, and overall wellbeing during the time that we go on and off daylight saving time. According to a study completed in 2012, daylight saving time led to a decrease in productivity at work. Two different studies conducted in 2012 found the rate of heart attacks increases, and multiple studies completed in the past 20 years have found that the rate of traffic accidents increase during the first days and weeks of daylight saving time in March. However, the effects of daylight saving time have been and currently are extensively studied showing positive, negative and neutral outcomes.

Daylight saving time does not achieve in Alaska what it was intended to do and I urge your support for this piece of legislation.

*adopted
3/3/14*

29-LS0111N
Shutts
3/2/15

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 6()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS MACKINNON, Stoltze, Coghill, Giessel, Dunleavy, Bishop, Micciche, Wielechowski, McGuire

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act exempting the state from daylight saving time; petitioning the United States
2 Department of Transportation to change the time zones of Alaska; and providing for an
3 effective date."

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** AS 44.12 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Article 5. Standard Time.

7 **Sec. 44.12.400. Exemption from daylight saving time.** The state exempts
8 itself from observation of advanced time, also known as daylight saving time, during
9 the period set under 15 U.S.C. 260a for the advancement of time each calendar year,
10 and the entire state shall observe the standard time that is otherwise applicable during
11 that period.

12 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
13 read:

14 **PETITION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

1 TO CHANGE THE TIME ZONE IN WHICH ALASKA IS LOCATED. The legislature, by
2 this Act, petitions the United States Department of Transportation to initiate proceedings
3 under the Uniform Time Act of 1966 to hold hearings in the appropriate locations in Alaska
4 on the issue of changing the boundaries of the time zones in which Alaska is located or
5 placing all or part of the state within the Pacific standard time zone as provided in the United
6 States Department of Transportation's "Procedure for Moving an Area from One Time Zone
7 to Another." Within 21 days after the effective date of this section, the governor shall send a
8 copy of this Act along with any other necessary documentation prescribed by the United
9 States Department of Transportation to the appropriate official of the United States
10 Department of Transportation.

11 * **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

12 * **Sec. 4.** Except as provided in sec. 3 of this Act, this Act takes effect January 1, 2017.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2015 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	SB 6
Fiscal Note Number:	1
(S) Publish Date:	2/11/15

Identifier: SB006-DOA-FAC-02-06-15
 Title: ELIMINATE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
 Sponsor: MACKINNON
 Requester: Senate State Affairs

Department: Department of Administration
 Appropriation: General Services
 Allocation: Facilities
 OMB Component Number: 2429

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2016 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2016 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2016	FY 2016					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2016) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? no
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version

Prepared By: Tom Mayer, Director
 Division: Division of General Services
 Approved By: Sheldon Fisher, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Administration

Phone: (907)465-5677
 Date: 02/06/2015 05:30 PM
 Date: 02/06/15

STATE OF ALASKA
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB006

Analysis

SB 6 will amend AS 44.12 by adding a new section, 44.12.400, that will exempt the state from observing daylight savings. As a result state would observe standard time throughout the year.

The Division of General Services does not anticipate a fiscal impact and therefore submits a zero fiscal note.

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 6(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS MACKINNON, Stoltze, Coghill, Giessel, Dunleavy, Bishop, Micciche, Wielechowski, McGuire

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2015 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME POLL

www.alaskasenate.org

February 7 - 27, 2015



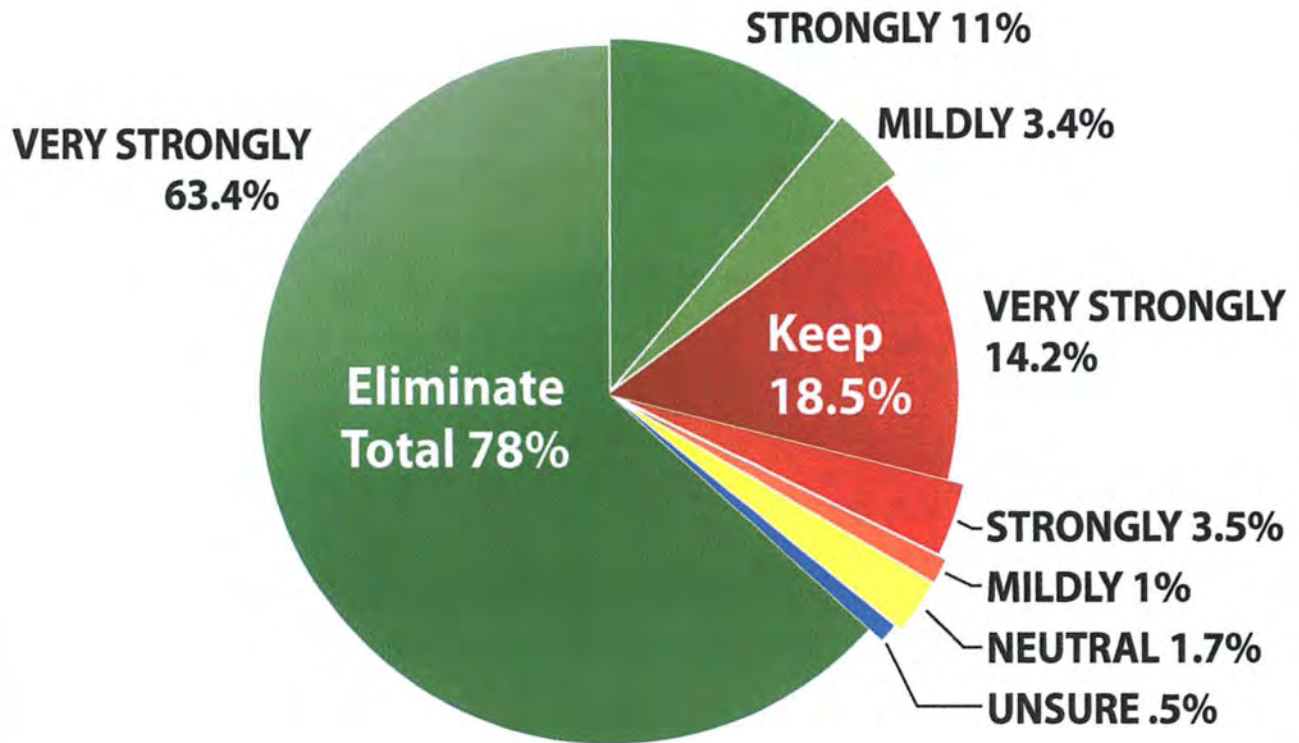
SUPPORT FOR ELIMINATING DST

“What is your position on Daylight Saving Time in Alaska?”

- A. I want to eliminate it* *B. I want to keep it*
- C. I am neutral* *D. Unsure*

“And how strongly to you feel about your position?”

- A. Very Strongly* *B. Strongly* *C. Mildly*

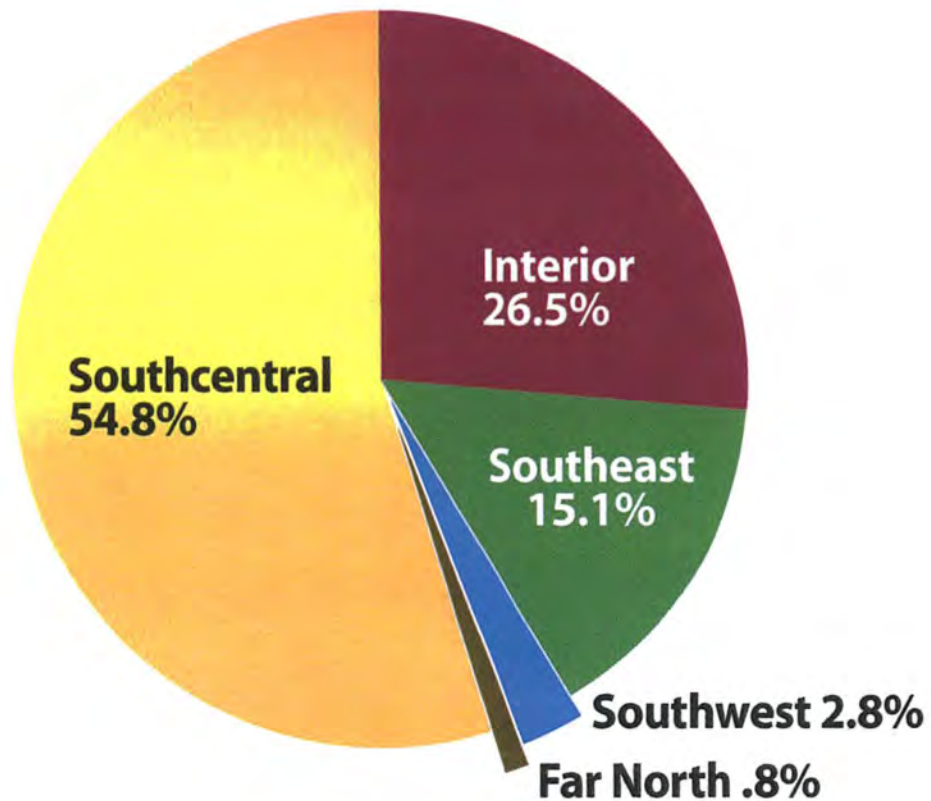


N = 3711 ~ 1.7% Margin of Error

REGIONAL RESPONSE

“Where do you live?”

- A. Far North (Barrow, Nome, Prudhoe Bay, etc.)*
- B. Interior (Delta Junction, Fairbanks, Fort Yukon, Tok, etc.)*
- C. Southwest (Bethel, Dillingham, Dutch Harbor, King Salmon, Kodiak etc.)*
- D. Southcentral (Anchorage, Cordova, Glennallen, Homer, Kenai, Palmer etc.)*
- E. Southeast (Haines, Juneau, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, etc.)*



SUPPORT BY REGION

“What is your position on Daylight Saving Time in Alaska?”

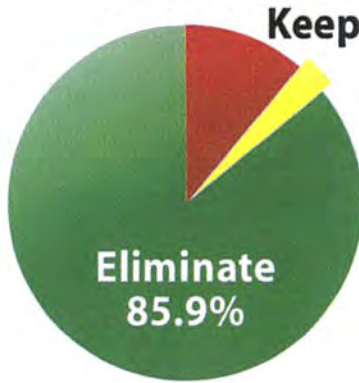
A. I want to eliminate it B. I want to keep it

C. I am neutral D. Unsure

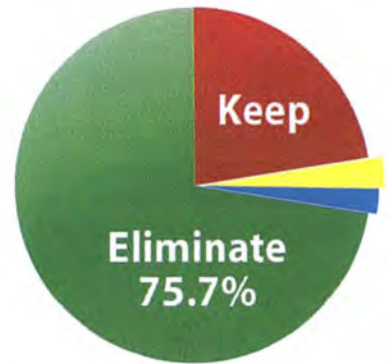
FAR NORTH



INTERIOR



SOUTHWEST

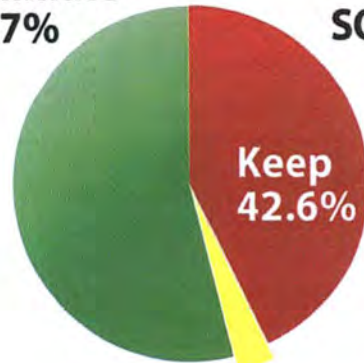


SOUTHCENTRAL



**Eliminate
53.7%**

SOUTHEAST



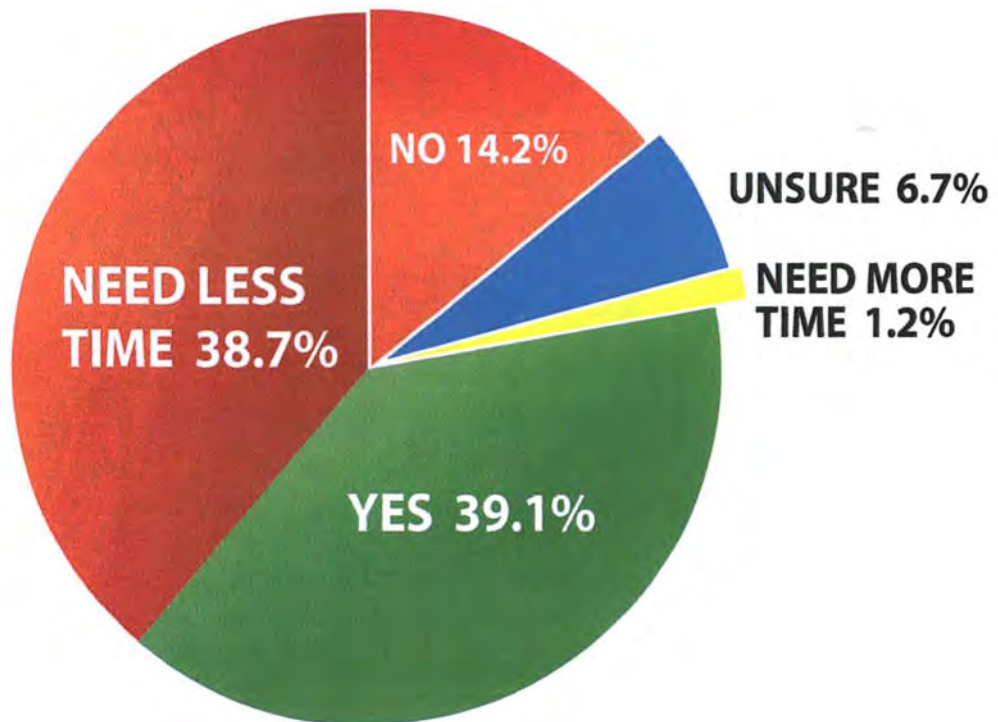
Neutral

Unsure (SW Alaska only region with > 1% unsure)

DOES DELAYING UNTIL 2017 HELP?

“If the elimination of Daylight Saving Time was delayed until 2017 would that give you or your business enough time to adjust accordingly and plan ahead?”

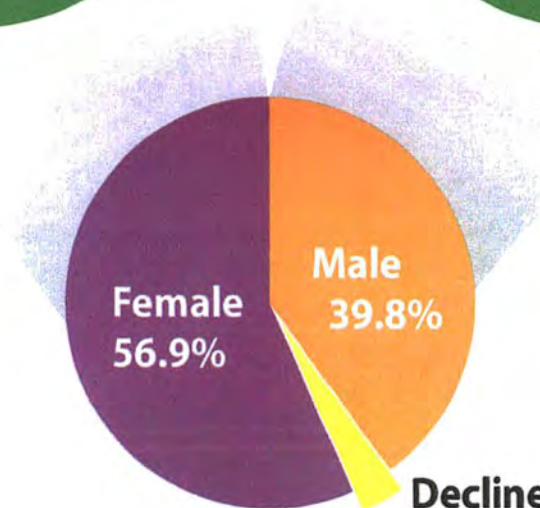
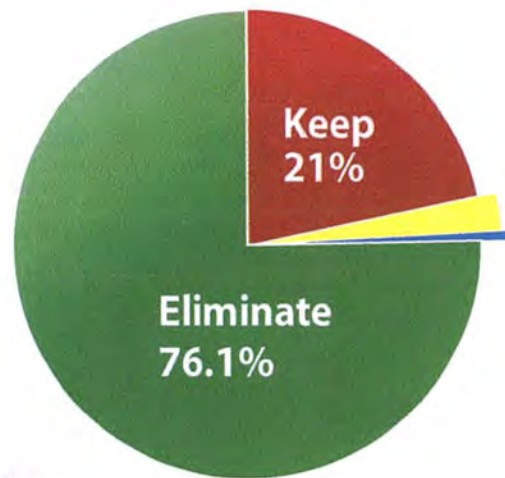
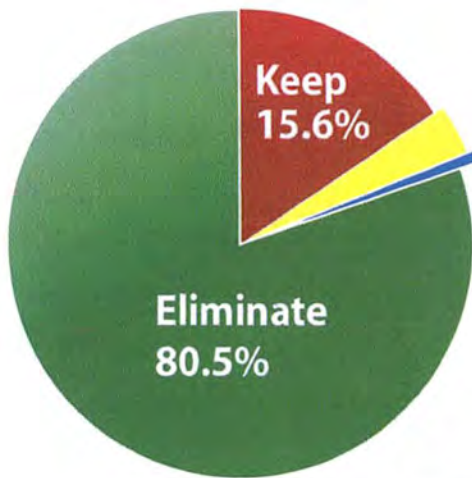
- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Unsure
- D. Need more time to plan
- E. Need less time to plan



DOES GENDER MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

“What is your gender (optional)?”

- A. Male
- B. Female
- C. I would rather not say

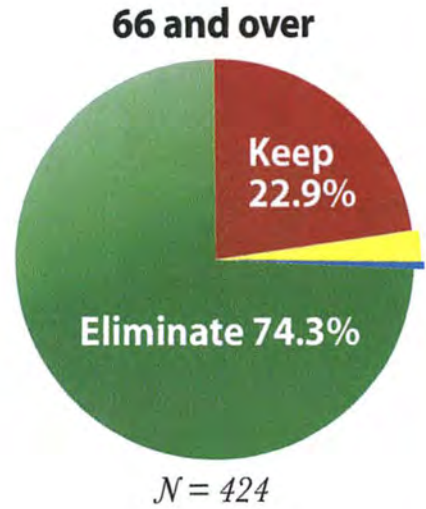
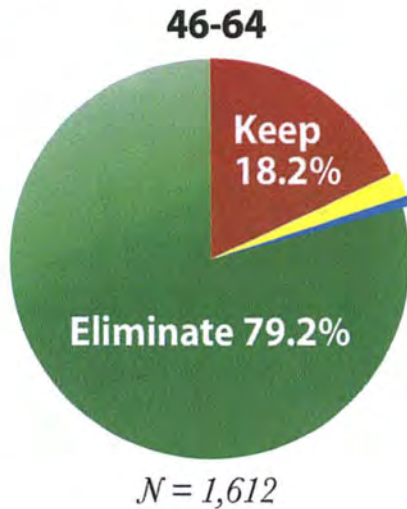
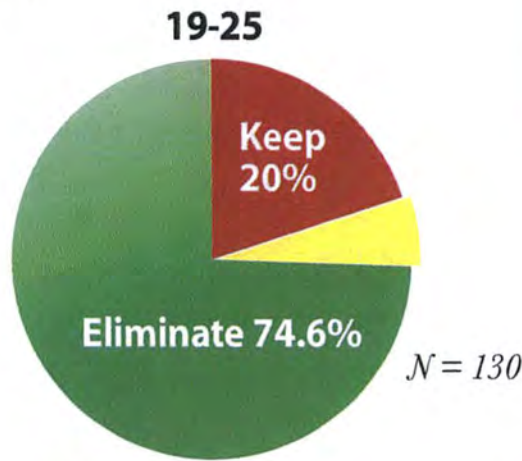
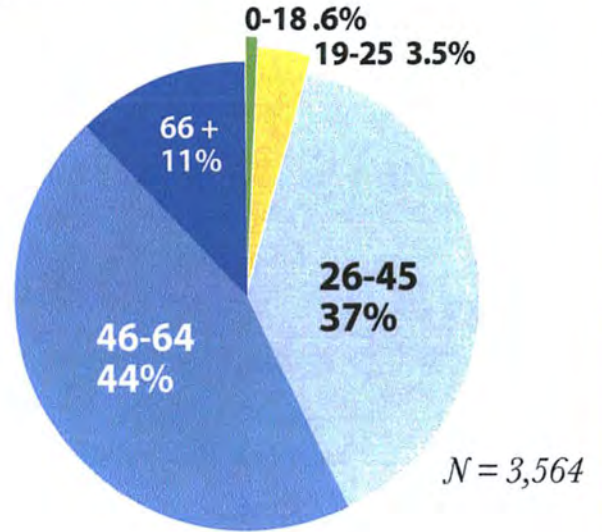


Neutral
Unsure

DOES AGE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

“What is your age range? (optional)”

- A. 0-18
- B. 19-25
- C. 26-45
- D. 46-65
- E. 66 or older



Neutral
 Unsure

SB 6: Eliminate Daylight Saving Time:

Impact by Department

Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation:

- **Position:** Neutral
- **Fiscal Impact:** Indeterminate
- **Analysis:**

SB 6 would exempt Alaska from Observing Daylight Saving Time, increasing the time displacement from the financial markets. This would require APFC fixed income traders to arrive at work at 3:45 am for the eight months that Daylight Saving Time is observed. There are also accounting and IT support staff that arrive shortly after the markets open in order to provide support to the fixed income officers, and they would be affected by this change as well.

APFC already faces the challenge of recruiting fixed income traders away from the financial markets for public sector wages. This change could affect the ability to retain and recruit quality employees for these positions, potentially requiring the APFC to outsource some or all of the fixed income trading to Outside firms. A rough estimate of the cost of outsourcing the portfolios presently managed in-house is \$14 million, though this would be offset by reductions in the \$2.7 million internal program.

Opening an APFC trading office in a more favorable time zone might maintain costs closer to the present internal program, without the time displacement from the financial markets.

Department of Administration:

- **Position:** Neutral
- **Fiscal Impact:** Zero
- **Analysis:**

This bill exempts the State of Alaska from daylight saving time and provides an effective date of January 1, 2017. The bill further indicates the state shall observe the standard time that is otherwise applicable during that period. The Department of Administration, Division of General Services does not anticipate any programmatic effects or impacts related to the facilities managed and operated by the department as a result of this legislation.

No operational benefit to SOA agencies. Potential office hour conflicts across Alaska statewide agencies.

Department of Commerce Community and Economic Development:

- **Position:** Neutral
- **Fiscal Impact:** Zero
- **Analysis:**

Bills to exempt Alaska from Daylight Savings Time have been introduced fairly regularly since Rep. Vic Kohring introduced HB 4 in 1999. The arguments for and against the various iterations of the bills introduced since then have tended to divide along geographical regions of the state. Those communities in the southeast tend to be against dropping daylight savings time as they feel it puts them further out of synch with Seattle, a city they do a significant amount of business with (Juneau was the first city in Alaska to adopt DST). Communities in other parts of the state tend to be supportive so that they can have their daylight hours at more reasonable times of day. Little Diomed, whose sun reaches its zenith at 3:20 pm in the winter and 4:20 pm in the summer, went so far as to unilaterally create "Little Diomed Time" in 1993 and set all of their clocks back three hours (a year later they moved back to Alaska time after confusion from shippers and others regarding time differences).

As far as economic impacts go, there are some economic development and business development organizations in the state that think eliminating DST would provide Alaska with an advantage when doing business with Asia and Europe. If Alaska eliminated DST and didn't move our base time zone to Pacific between March and November it would be 2pm in Alaska when it was 8am in Japan, while in Pacific Time it would be 4pm. This would also present an opportunity for Alaskan based customer service or call center facilities that service Asia, Russia or Europe, or for financial sector businesses that with the Asian or European exchanges. Financial services are unlikely to support being 5 hours apart from New York.

It's difficult to say what the actual economic impact would be from implementing this bill. Alaska has gone through several changes during its long history in regards to time zones, daylight savings and even "war time" which was instituted during WWII nationwide and was the early precursor to Daylight Savings Time. Through the changes from three time zones to five time zones back to one time zone and then to daylight savings, Alaskan businesses have proven resilient and adaptable. While there is no doubt that there will be a period of adjustment that will need to take place if this bill passes, eventually Alaska's citizens and businesses will adapt.

Department of Environmental Conservation:

- **Position:** Neutral
- **Fiscal Impact:** Zero

- **Analysis:**

This bill seeks to eliminate Daylight Savings Time in Alaska. The main concern in the Department is in regard to communication with the East Coast.

SB 6 could further isolate Alaska from the rest of the country by further limiting the already short window when employees in Alaska and on the East Coast are in the office at the same time. For example, many of our staff are involved in national workgroups or regularly teleconference with counterparts in other states and staff from USDA, FDA, or EPA offices in Washington D.C. If Alaska lagged 5 hours behind, staff might have to call-in for a teleconference at 4:00 am or forego participation. While SB 6 will increase inconvenience, it has minimal impact to the Department.

Department of Fish and Game:

- **Position:** Neutral
- **Fiscal Impact:** Zero
- **Analysis:**

The elimination of daylight savings time will not have an impact on the duties and responsibilities of DF&G.

Do you think you will have any fiscal challenges or issues?

After consulting the divisions within DF&G they did not identify any fiscal challenges or issues associated with eliminating daylight savings time.

Do you manage any facilities and do you foresee any challenges?

DF&G does manage facilities but we don't anticipate any challenges associated with managing those facilities if daylight savings time is eliminated

Other pertinent details/ analysis?

With the elimination of daylight savings time the daylight hours will shift so people may choose to hunt and fish earlier and end sooner than usual.

Department of Natural Resources:

- **Position:** Neutral
- **Fiscal Impact:** Zero
- **Analysis:**

Overall, no impact from this potential change, and no increased costs. No concern about the facilities we manage either.

There will be some required updating to the IT infrastructure because the current systems automatically change the time for daylight savings.

The biggest concern that Division of Mining, Land, and Water can identify is that this may adversely affect operations that deal with East Coast contacts. This change will place a larger time difference between Alaska and the East Coast during part of the year. There is already limited availability of meeting times when trying to intersect working hours of regular employees from both coasts. Currently, staff sometimes have to come in early mornings to have meetings with the East Coast contemporaries or attend scheduled online training sessions. If we understand this action, it would further reduce that available meeting time by one more hour during half the year.

Time management will require some adjustment but isn't a major change. National Conference Calls rarely pick early morning or late afternoon times to account for time differences.

Department of Labor and Workforce Development:

- **Position:** Neutral
- **Fiscal Impact:** Zero
- **Analysis:**

Aside from the time differentials between Alaska and the rest of the nation, there are no impacts on Labor Standards & Safety.

If not on daylight savings, Alaska will be 2 hours behind West coast and 5 hours behind East coast for the summer months. This will make business meetings and travel outside Alaska a little more difficult during these months.

It would make more sense for Alaska to be on daylight savings time year round. If we didn't fall back one hour, Alaska would be on the same time as the West coast and just 3 hours behind the East coast for the winter months.

Department of Law:

- **Position:** Neutral
- **Fiscal Impact:** Zero
- **Analysis:**

No legal issues

Department of Education and Early Development:

- **Position:** Neutral
- **Fiscal Impact:** Zero
- **Analysis:**

Do you think you will have any fiscal challenges or issues?

The department does not anticipate fiscal challenges as a result of this legislation. The only issues will be in working with other states, or with agencies in Washington, D.C. on agency related business, because for the time period of the current Daylight Savings period we will have a five rather than a four hour time difference with Eastern Standard Time.

Do you manage any facilities and do you foresee any challenges?

The department manages facilities, but does not anticipate a challenge as a result of this legislation.

Are there any other issues that you would like us to be aware of that will affect your department?

This change may have a positive impact on timely school attendance for one to two days after the change normally takes place in March and November if DST is eliminated, for students and families that struggle with the time change.

Department of Health and Social Services:

- **Position:** Neutral
- **Fiscal Impact:** Zero
- **Analysis:**

This bill would exempt Alaska from observation of daylight saving time, under which clocks are currently advanced one hour between 2a.m. the second Sunday of March and 2 a.m. the first Sunday of November. This period coincides with the brighter part of the year when Alaska receives more hours of daylight per day. The practical effect of elimination of daylight saving time would be to increase daylight hours in the morning and decrease them in the evening. Alaska summer mornings come very early, due to the northerly latitude, and under this proposed legislation, sunrise at the peak of Summer Solstice would occur an hour earlier, at approximately 2:50a.m.

Since the rest of the country continues to observe daylight saving time, this legislation would also mean that for those nearly eight months of the year, the time zone difference between Alaska and more easterly states would be reduced by one hour, possibly making it easier to conduct business with the East Coast.

The department has considered potential impacts to DHSS facilities' utility usage, client safety and comfort, facility construction and maintenance, and does not anticipate either significant or adverse effects under this proposal. Facility staffing would be slightly simplified and costs very slightly reduced, in that a pay accommodation for the "extra" hour worked at the transition back to standard time would no longer be necessary.

A study of data from Sweden, an arctic region, showed increased rates of heart attacks in the period after the change to daylight savings time. Another study suggests an increase in motor vehicle accidents the day after changing to daylight savings time. This is not unlike the effect of traveling East from Alaska which typically is harder than when traveling West. In regards to the seasonality of suicide in the winter months, suicide rates are high year round but peak in the mid-summer and fall around November. Causation has not been established related to suicide rates and the change back to standard time from daylight savings time.

Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs:

- **Position:** Neutral
- **Fiscal Impact:** Zero
- **Analysis:**

Do you think you will have any fiscal challenges or issues?

The DMVA will not have any fiscal challenges or issues.

Do you manage any facilities and do you foresee any challenges?

The DMVA does not foresee any challenges with its facilities management with this legislation.

Does your Department oppose, support, or take a neutral stance?

The DMVA is neutral on the proposed legislation.

Are there any other issues that you would like us to be aware of that will affect your department?

The DMVA foresees no other issues with this legislation.

University of Alaska:

- **Position:** Neutral
- **Fiscal Impact:** Zero
- **Analysis:**

UA operates over 400 facilities around the State. We do not foresee any implementation challenges related to our facility inventory. We do not anticipate any fiscal issues resulting from passage of this legislation.

Because of the large amount of Federal funds received by UA and the substantial regulatory burden that the Federal Government imposes on postsecondary institutions, UA employees regularly interact with the offices of Alaska's congressional delegation and with Federal regulatory agencies in Washington, D.C. This legislation will increase the time difference

between Alaska and Washington, D.C. for part of the year, and may require some employees to adjust their work schedules to maximize the time available to do business.

Department of Corrections:

- **Position:** Neutral
- **Fiscal Impact:** Zero
- **Analysis:**

This legislation would exempt the state from daylight saving time, keeping the entire state on standard time.

The Department of Corrections manages correctional facilities, probation and parole offices, and administrative offices around the state. This legislation would have no impact on the operations of our facilities.

United States
Department of Transportation

Procedure for Moving an Area from One Time Zone to Another

Ways to Change a Time Zone

Under Federal law, there are two ways in which an area in the United States can be moved from one time zone to another:

- **By statute:** Congress may enact a statute changing the time zone.
- **By regulation:** The Secretary of Transportation may issue regulations making changes.

This Web site discusses only the second since the first has not been used in over 60 years.

Submission of a Request to Change a Time Zone

1. **Requesting Party.** The request must be made by the highest political authority in the area which is the subject of the request.
 - a. **State Government:** For any part of the State, a request by the governor or the legislature meets this requirement; however, requests from this level are quite rare.
 - b. **Local Government:** Usually, the request covers one or more counties or parts of a county; hence, the request should come from the board of county commissioners or similar body.
2. **Information Required.** The request must be accompanied by the following:
 - a. **Certification.** A formal certification from the appropriate governmental official that the request is the result of official action by the requesting party, if the requesting party is a legislative body.
 - b. **Contact Information.** The name, address, telephone number, and title or position of a person representing the requesting party whom DOT may contact for further information.
 - c. **Supporting Information.** Detailed information supporting the requesting party's contention that the requested change would serve the convenience of commerce, as discussed below.
3. **Address.** Submit the request to:

*Secretary of Transportation
Attention: General Counsel (C-50)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.*

Washington, DC 20590

Substantive Requirements

The principal standard for deciding whether to change a time zone is the convenience of commerce, which is defined very broadly to include consideration of all of the impacts upon a community that would result in a change in its standard of time. Examples of some of these considerations that should be addressed in the supporting information are the following:

1. Where do businesses in the community get their supplies and to where do they ship their goods or products?
2. Where does the community receive television and radio broadcasts from?
3. Where are the newspapers published that serve the community?
4. Where does the community get its bus and passenger rail services; if there is no scheduled bus or passenger rail service in the community, where must residents go to obtain these services?
5. Where is the nearest airport; if it is a local service airport, to what major airport does it carry passengers?
6. What percentage of residents of the community work outside of the community; where do these residents work?
7. What are the major elements of the community's economy; is the community's economy improving or declining; what Federal, State, or local plans, if any, are there for economic development in the community?
8. If residents leave the community for schooling, recreation, health care, or religious worship, what standard of time is observed in the places where they go for these purposes?

DOT Handling of Requests

The General Counsel's Office reviews requests for time zone changes. If there is enough information to conclude that the change may in fact serve the convenience of commerce, the General Counsel issues a proposed rule to make the change and invites written public comment on the proposal. Normally, a public hearing is held by DOT in the community so that those affected by the issue can make their views known, and the public is given approximately 2 months in which to submit their written comments, which should address the proposal's impacts upon the convenience of commerce. After analyzing all of the comments, the General Counsel decides whether the change would in fact serve the convenience of commerce. If the General Counsel believes that it would not, he or she ends the proceeding and leaves the time zone unchanged. If the General Counsel believes that it would serve the convenience of commerce, his or her recommendation is forwarded to the Secretary of Transportation, who alone has authority to change a time zone. A typical time zone rulemaking to change one county normally takes between 6 months and 1 year to complete.

Effective Date of Any Change

If the decision is made to change the time zone boundary, DOT attempts to make the change effective at the next changeover to or from Daylight Saving Time, whichever is appropriate, to minimize confusion and disruption.

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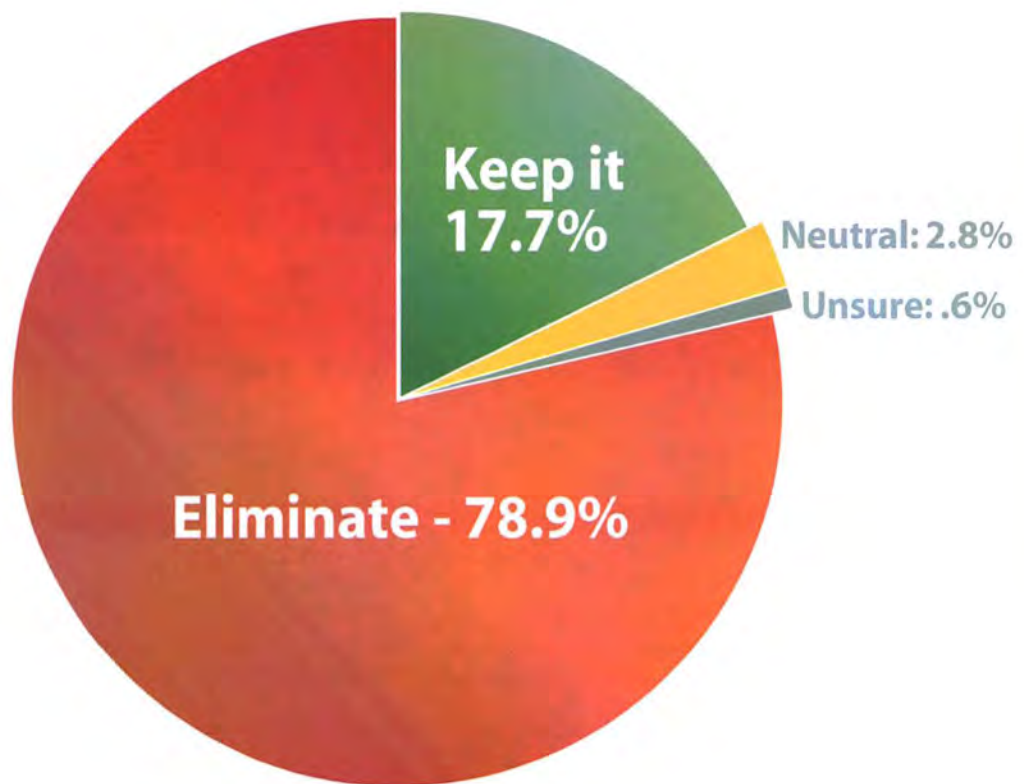
Tags

- [uniform time](#)
- [standard time](#)
- [daylight saving time](#)
- [time zones](#)

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME SNAPSHOT

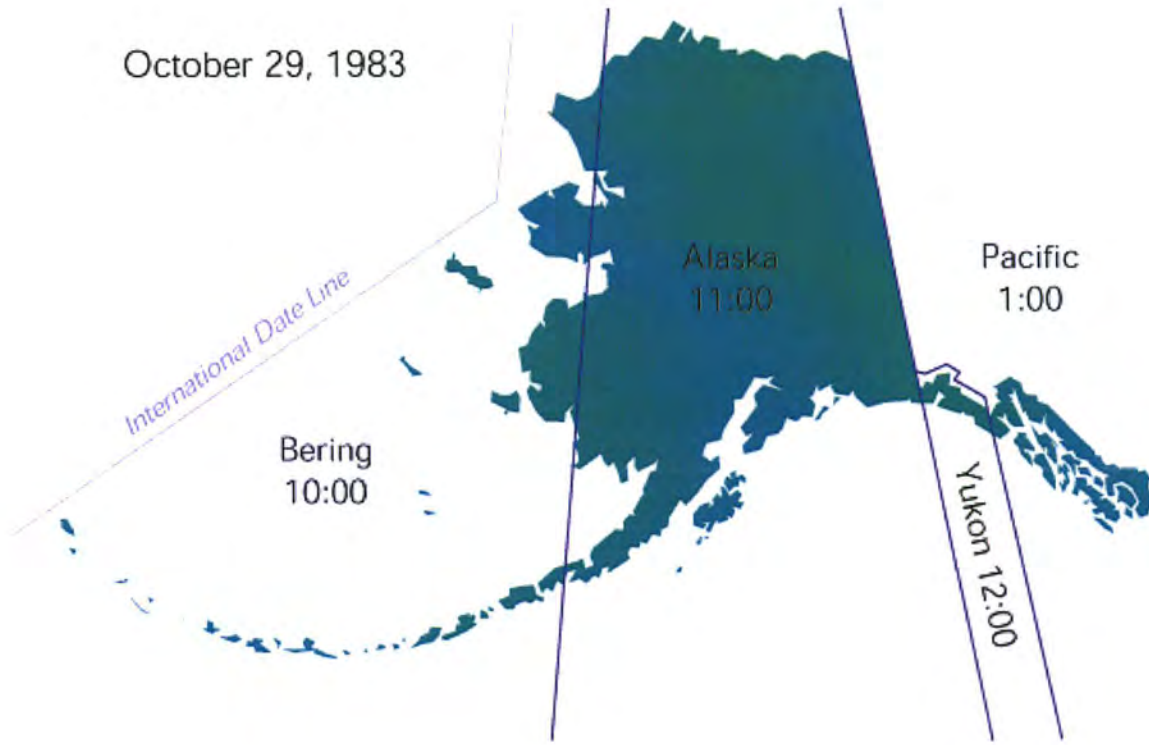
“What is your position on Daylight Saving Time in Alaska?”

- A. I want to eliminate it*
- B. I want to keep it*
- C. I am neutral*
- D. Unsure*

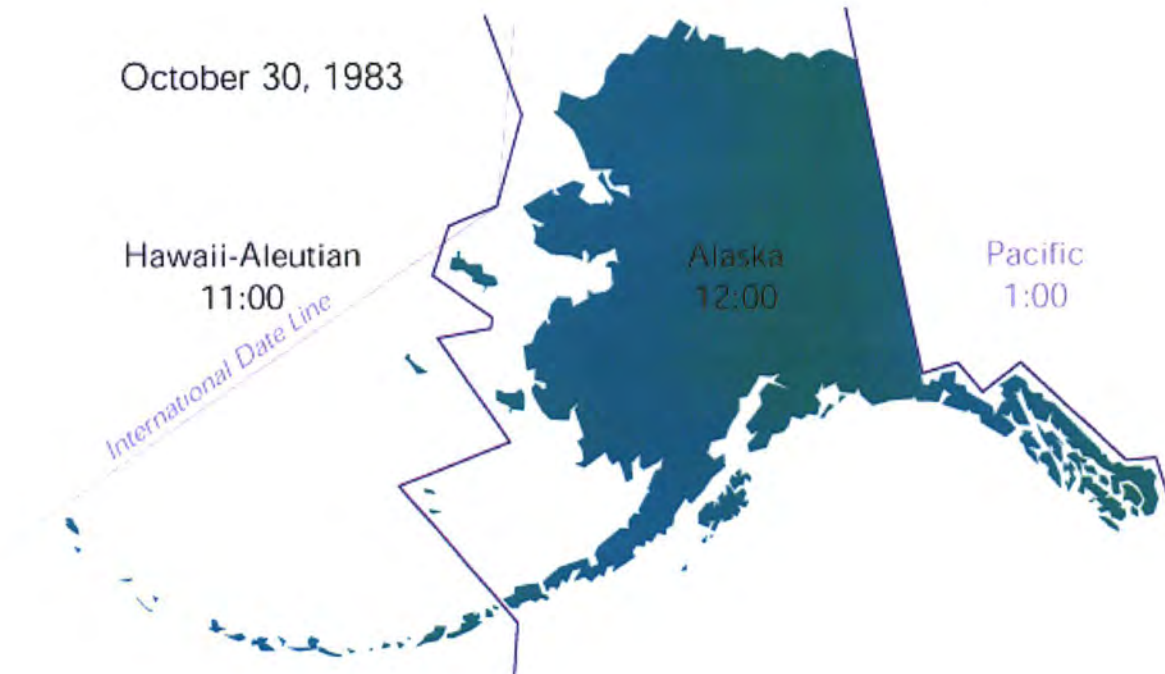


N = 3519 Snapshot taken 2/23/15

October 29, 1983



October 30, 1983



AHS Blog

Keeping Time in Alaska: National Directives, Local Response

Date Posted: February 10, 2014 Categories:

By Frank Norris

Time zones and daylight savings time have an interesting history in Alaska, a state that straddles so many degrees of longitude and has more than its share of summer daylight and winter darkness. Frank Norris's article on keeping time in Alaska in the 2001 issue of Alaska History tells that story and is reproduced below. Copies of the issue may be ordered through the Publications page of the website.

Americans and Canadians established time zones for most of North America in the 1880s, and most of the continent has retained those time zones ever since. Changes in how residents have kept time have been rare and related primarily to wars, energy crises, and the imposition of daylight saving time. In Alaska, however, the issue of time measurement resurfaces with some regularity. A variety of issues central to Alaska history—rebelliousness against the sometimes unrealistic dictates of a distant federal government, Alaskans' struggle for political unity across their vast state, and diverse economic allegiances—have all been manifested in the evolution of the state's time zones.

Until fairly recently, people throughout the world gave little or no thought to measuring the time of day. Farmers, ranchers, hunters, gatherers, and other subsistence users rose with the sun and carried on their daily activities until dusk. When the sun set, some people responded by lighting a fire or a candle, while others went straight to bed. By the mid-eighteenth century, when the first European visited Alaska's shores, clockmakers were making timepieces that could trace the hours and minutes with remarkable accuracy. Most people, however, cared little about the exactness of time; in 1790, for example, fewer than 10 percent of Americans had a clock of any kind, and most of those clocks had no minute hand.(1)

Society's casual attitude toward time was also reflected in the consistency, or lack of consistency, between time keeping in various adjacent communities. In lieu of time zones, people kept time on the basis of longitude. Based on that system, clocks in Wrangell (located at 132° West longitude) would strike noon twelve minutes before those located in Sitka (at 135° West longitude). This system proved slightly vexing to ship captains and commercial traders who traveled long distances.(2) Most people, however, traveled little; thus there was little pressure to change the existing state of affairs.

In the United States and Canada, the expanding railroad network demonstrated the inadequacy of each town keeping its own "official time." By the 1850s, to guarantee the safety of its trains at crossing points, each carrier adopted its own time standard. In cities that were served by more than one railroad, travelers learned that there might be several official railroad times in addition to the clock that local residents used. To bring order, the railroads in November 1883 established the Eastern, Central, Mountain, and Pacific time zones, based on the 75th, 90th, 105th, and 120th meridians, respectively. Alaska, which had no railroads, was not included in the system.(3)

Because of its isolation and lack of commercial infrastructure, Alaska during this period was less concerned about time measurement than the rest of North America. Alaska and adjacent areas of Canada were splendidly isolated from Seattle, Edmonton, and other southern points; no telegraph reached the far northern latitudes, and steamship travel between Puget Sound and the nearest Alaskan port was a two- or three-day endeavor.

Prior to 1900, towns in Alaska and the Yukon set their clocks to a local time based on longitude. Historical accounts from the gold rush period reveal a relaxed attitude toward time. Stampeders' diaries, for example, often note the hour at which their train arrived in Seattle, and many diarists were also careful to note the hour in which their steamship departed for Alaskan waters. But once the stampeders disembarked in the north country, time became less important. This attitude is reflected in the general omission of time references in the early Skagway and Dyea newspapers, even for store hours or steamship departure times, and most diarists paid little attention to time once they headed inland.



Telegraph station, Ft Gibbon, Tanana, Alaska, circa 1900. Photo by George M. Woods. UAF-1974-130-120, Edward R.

Uniform time keeping finally came to Alaska in the wake of the turn-of-the-century gold rushes. The U.S. Army, which around 1900 established a series of forts across the territory, was primarily responsible for the change. That same year, the Army Signal Corps, under the direction of Brigadier General Adolphus Greely, began constructing the Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System (WAMCATS) to provide instantaneous communication between the forts. By 1903, the Signal Corps had built a line from Fort Davis, near Nome, to St. Michael and up the Yukon River Valley to Fort Egbert at Eagle; the Corps also constructed another line from Fort Egbert south to Fort Lisicum near Valdez.(4) During this same period, Canadian construction crews completed a telegraph line connecting Dawson City to Canada's main telegraph grid at Quesnel, British Columbia. Unwilling to rely on the Canadians, though, the U.S. by 1905 had laid a submarine cable line between Seattle and various Alaska points.(5)

The implementation of a telegraph system, in practical terms, demanded the establishment of one or more time zones, and given the concentration of economic and political power at the time in Alaska's southeastern panhandle, it was unsurprising that "Alaska Standard Time," established in 1900, would be centered on the 135th meridian, just one hour before Pacific Standard Time.(6) This scheme proved suitable for the Southeast, but Alaskans elsewhere observed two other time zones, one each for central and western Alaska. These additional time zones were observed in everything except telegraphic communications.



Clock face with tutu-clothed woman posing, toes pointing to 10:30. ASL-P226-723, William R. Norton Photographs, Alaska State Library-Historical Collections.

McFarland Photographs, University of
Alaska Fairbanks Archives

It must not be concluded, however, that Alaskans immediately became more time-conscious merely because of the increasing reach of the telegraph system. Although most Alaskans during this period paid attention to some form of time measurement—a church bell, a cannery or mine whistle, or a railroad timetable—it also appears that most Alaskans, even those in the larger towns, lived by the clock far less than today.(7) It is highly likely, moreover, that many Alaska residents during this period, particularly those in rural areas, either owned no timepieces or paid little attention to the ones they had.

Not long after Alaska adopted standard time zones, territorial residents began to consider daylight saving time. World War I and the need to maximize daylight hours in armament manufacturing plants spurred national lawmakers to consider the idea's energy savings potential. In May 1916 both Germany and Great Britain adopted daylight saving time. The idea also took hold in various U.S. states and cities; Seattle, for example, adopted daylight saving time during that summer.

Alaska, at first blush, seemed an unlikely area for experimentation with this concept. It had a scant manufacturing presence, and it was also situated in the high latitudes, where the length of daylight, both in summer and winter, made daylight saving time largely irrelevant. But based on Seattle's example, at least one Alaskan community experimented with the concept during the fall of 1916. In Seward, a petition circulated by a "very charming personality" caused railroad company management, along with the school and a number of businesses, to adopt a daylight saving time experiment beginning on October 1. The city council, however, refused to sanction the idea, and neither the cable office nor steamship companies expressed interest in changing over to the new system. Local enthusiasm for the idea, moreover, proved short-lived. By October 3, some residents were already "disgusted" with having to pay attention to two systems of time keeping; by October 9, most of the town's businesses had declared the time change a nuisance and had reverted to standard time. The local newspaper editor, dead set against the time change, pilloried the idea as being one of those "egregious bits of rot," and the confusion brought on by the experiment forced its complete repeal by the end of November.(8)

Although Alaskans could muster little enthusiasm for daylight saving time, Congress in March 1918 mandated the adoption of "war time" throughout the country from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October. "War time" remained in force until October 1919. The law also decreed that in addition to the United States' four major time zones, there would be a fifth zone for Alaska. "U.S. Standard Alaska Time" would be two hours slower than in Seattle. This was done either because of geographical centrality—the 150th meridian neatly bisected the territory—or perhaps because an increasing percentage of Alaskans were now living outside of the southeastern panhandle. But the act, whatever its virtues, had no enforcement mechanism. And in the words of a latter-day newspaper columnist, the use of official Alaska Time was "only compulsory on common carriers and for the various purposes of government administration."(9) Most Alaskans, therefore, continued to honor three time zones, as they had since the turn of the century.

Beginning in the mid-1920s, Southeast communities began to grow restless because their commonly observed time was an hour behind that in Seattle. Perhaps based on a move to summer daylight saving time in Seattle, Panhandle residents agitated to move area clocks ahead to Pacific Standard Time in order to narrow the two-hour seasonal time zone gap. Ketchikan pioneered the idea. On May 19, 1926, the city council passed a resolution adopting Pacific Standard Time the year round, to be effective at midnight on May 29. As a newspaper article noted, "The change in time is said to be a big convenience for boats, tourists, and establishments doing business with Seattle firms." Ketchikan interests invited other southeastern Alaska towns to follow suit, but so far as is known, none did.(10)

In May 1933, Seattle launched a new daylight saving time experiment. In reaction, Juneau city council member J. B. Burford presented a daylight saving time petition "signed by many business people." Hoping to avoid an "adverse effect on business with Seattle banks," the council unanimously adopted Burford's plan, and Juneau went on daylight saving time from May 24 through September 20.(11) It then reverted to standard time; and perhaps in response to Seattle, which made no further moves to experiment with daylight saving time for the next several years, Juneau also retained standard time on a year-round basis.

During the period between the two world wars, Alaskans abandoned their reliance on "Alaska Standard Time" as a reference either to that centered on southeastern Alaska (as the Army had declared in 1900) or on the Railbelt (as Congress had declared in 1918). In its stead, Alaskans implemented a territory-wide system based on meridians, not names. A typical maritime table, therefore, might note that a steamship would depart from Seattle on Tuesday at 8 p.m. Pacific Time; it would sail north to Juneau, where it would arrive on Friday at 10 a.m. 135°. It would then continue on to Seward, where it would arrive on Sunday at 2 p.m. 150°.(12)

In May 1939, Juneau commenced another, more sweeping time-change effort. Frank Metcalf, worried that residents were "losing the use of too much daylight," petitioned the city council to adopt Pacific Time. The idea became a discussion item at various civic meetings, and in early July the town's chamber of commerce lined up behind the plan. But the town's largest labor organization, the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' Union, opposed the change. Recognizing the idea's potential divisiveness, the council let area voters decide. On April 2, 1940, voters in the Juneau-Douglas area adopted the time-change move on a 753-564 vote, and at 11 p.m. on April 30, area clocks shifted an hour ahead. Other Southeast communities apparently followed suit, and by the eve of World War II nearly all of Southeast, except Skagway and Yakutat, had adopted Pacific Time.(13)

On February 9, 1942, Alaska, along with the other states and territories, went on daylight saving time or "war time" on a year-round basis. Because many southeastern communities had moved to Pacific Time in 1940, adopting federally mandated war time in those communities brought no changes to local clocks. The rest of the territory's residents—those observing 135° time in Skagway and Yakutat, 150° time centered on the Railbelt, or 165° in western Alaska—responded to war time by moving their clocks an hour ahead. The *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, perhaps speaking for many Alaskans, begrudgingly accepted the national mandate "despite the fact that Alaskan communities have observed the home rule on the time question."(14)

Congress kept war time in force until V-J Day in the summer of 1945. But no sooner had the Japanese surrendered than Congress began to agitate for war time's repeal. Congress took up legislation in early September, President Truman signed repeal into law on September 25, and war time ended five days later. On that day, people throughout the United States turned their clocks back one





Alaska State Library - Historical Collections
 Soldiers at Massacre Bay, Attu, Alaska, May 16, 1943. ASL-P175-052, U.S. Army Signal Corps Photograph Collection, Alaska State Library - Historical Collections.

hour; many Alaskans did the same. Most residents of southeastern Alaska, however, did not change their clocks. They thus, in effect, moved to Pacific Standard Time, which they had observed prior to World War II.(15)

For the two decades that followed World War II, Congress continued to recognize that Alaska had only one time zone-U.S. Standard Alaska Time, which was two hours slower than Pacific Standard Time. Alaskans, however, conveniently ignored the officially-designated time zone. Telegraph offices, radio stations, road maps, and other media recognized four Alaska time zones during this period, just as they had since 1940. Alaska's time zones were Pacific Time in southeastern Alaska south of Icy Strait; Yukon Time in Skagway and Yakutat; Alaska Time for everything from the 141st to the 162nd meridian, and Bering Time west of Alaska time. For more than twenty years after V-J Day, no Alaska communities observed daylight saving time.(16)

In the spring of 1954, Anchorage considered a time change. Various sports and recreation groups touted the idea of a two-hour change (to Pacific Standard Time) that would be honored from late May through late September. But transportation companies and broadcasters opposed the move, and they prevailed on the city council to delay the proposal until the city election that fall. The council offered local voters a choice; they could opt for either Pacific Standard Time, two hours ahead on a year-round basis; daylight saving time, one hour ahead on a seasonal basis; or a continuation of the status quo. In the October 5 election, the status quo prevailed. Advocates of the existing system garnered 1,265 votes, far more than those who voted for either daylight saving time (316 votes) or Pacific Standard Time (166 votes).(17)

Attempts to tinker with the new state's time zones arose at both the state and local levels in the early 1960s. Railbelt legislators introduced bills to unify Alaska under a single time zone in 1961 and 1963. Efforts to shift the state to either Pacific or Alaska time, however, failed. The only change to occur in the early 1960s was at Skagway. In early 1965, the Yukon Territorial Council voted to move the Territory from a year-round observance of Yukon Standard Time to Pacific Time with daylight saving time in summer. The Council probably took this action to more easily communicate with British Columbia, which had a similar time system. Yukon Territory's time change left Skagway-which had long kept the same time zone as the Yukon with which it was linked by the White Pass & Yukon Route Railway-out of synch with communities in both the Yukon and southeastern Alaska. Skagway residents, opting for closer ties with both Whitehorse and southeastern Alaska, circulated a petition requesting a change to Pacific Standard Time. In October town voters approved the change by an overwhelming margin. These actions left Yakutat as the only substantial Alaska community observing Yukon Time.(18)

A major change in Alaska's time regime came with passage of the Uniform Time Act, which President Johnson signed on April 13, 1966. The bill had three primary impacts on the 49th state. First, it put all of Alaska on summer daylight saving time for the first time in its peacetime history. Second, the name "Alaska Time," used for clocks in the Railbelt, was changed to "Alaska-Hawaii Time" to reflect the 50th state's inclusion in the same time zone. And third, Congress finally recognized that Alaskans deserved four time zones, not the single "U.S. Standard Alaska time" that it had been in effect since 1918. Southeast, like Seattle, would have Pacific Time; Yakutat would observe Yukon Time; most of Alaska west of the border with the Yukon Territory would fall in Alaska-Hawaii Time; and the Aleutians and western Alaska would be in Bering Time, three hours behind the Southeast. In April 1968 Alaskans adopted the four-time-zone plan and implemented daylight saving time.(19)

During the mid to late 1970s, a major issue in state politics was whether the capital should be moved from Juneau to the booming Railbelt. Any questions about time zones had to be considered in the context of the looming capital move issue. In the spring of 1979, Juneau mayor Bill Overstreet and the city-borough assembly sought to lessen the tensions between Southeast and the Railbelt by sending a petition to the federal Department of Transportation (DOT) requesting that Juneau and other southeastern cities be moved to Yukon Time. This move would reduce the time difference between Juneau and the Railbelt from two hours to one. On September 20, the DOT approved the petition; departmental officials decreed that on April 27, 1980, Juneau and other nearby communities would move to Yukon Time. Sitka, Petersburg, Wrangell, and Ketchikan, however, would remain on Pacific Time.(20)

But soon after the DOT's decision, a broad spectrum of Juneau's population rose up to protest the change. Southeast, they declared, had closer business relationships to Seattle than to the Railbelt. On March 28, 1980, voters-by nearly a 2-to-1 margin-approved a non-binding referendum favoring repeal of the DOT's decision. Two weeks later, the Alaska State Senate unanimously passed a resolution asking that the time-change order be rescinded. Despite that vote, the federal agency refused to back down, and the switch to Yukon Daylight Time took place in late April. Some Juneau residents became so upset about the time change that they initiated recall petitions against Mayor Overstreet and four assembly members. This turn of events may have prodded DOT officials to announce that they would re-analyze their previous decision. The agency held a mid-July hearing to air citizens' views, and on September 22, 1980, DOT Secretary Neil E. Goldschmidt rescinded the Department's September 1979 decision. Juneau and other communities in northern Southeast reverted to Pacific Time on October 26.(21) That action, while it satisfied Southeast residents, re-aggravated tensions between Juneau and the Railbelt over the capital move issue.

For the next two years, the capital move issue dominated state politics. In the November 1982 election, Alaskans solidly defeated the capital move proposal. But William Sheffield, who won the governorship in that same election, tried to moderate the tension between Southeast and the Railbelt by proposing to the Alaska legislature that the two-hour time-zone gap be eliminated altogether. In his plan, clocks in the Railbelt would advance an hour while those in Southeast would move back an hour. The only part of the state that would remain out of that system, in Sheffield's plan, would be western Alaska and the Aleutian Islands; clocks in this part of the state would advance an hour from Bering Time to Alaska-Hawaii Time. The Alaska legislature agreed with Sheffield's proposal. On April 19, Sheffield signed a resolution asking for two Alaska time zones and forwarded it to the DOT.(22)

The DOT held hearings on the change. Most communities voiced support. At an August hearing in Nome, however, the town's common council, at the request of local radio stations, asked that most of western Alaska be moved to Yukon Time along with the rest of the state rather than Alaska-Hawaii Time. The DOT honored that request, and on September 15, it approved the statewide time change.(23) Alaskans adjusted to the new system in the early hours of Sunday, October 30, 1983. All of Alaska became part of a single time zone-which was now called Alaska Time-with two exceptions. One area, the western Aleutian islands of Atka, Adak, Shemya, and

Attu, advanced an hour from Bering Time to Hawaiian-Aleutian Time. Annette Island, an Indian reservation near Ketchikan, was the other exception. On October 28, two days before the scheduled time change, the Metlakatla Indian Community Council voted unanimously to keep the reservation on Pacific Time.(24)

The government's move to unify Alaska's time zones antagonized many Southeast residents, who disliked being moved away from Pacific Time. They complained that it forced children to come home from school in the dark in midwinter; in addition, being in a new time zone, according to one source, had "adversely affected the business community's efforts to communicate with Seattle." Ketchikan residents soon circulated petitions to repeal the time change, and during the next several months additional support was gathered from either the governing bodies or residents' groups in Wrangell, Sitka, Petersburg, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, and various Prince of Wales Island communities. All joined a petition to make a switch from Alaska Time to Pacific Time. The petitioners pressed for public hearings, hoping to publicize their case. But in two separate 1986 rulings, the DOT rejected the petition because it would have created an arbitrary, confusing "island of time." (25) With the exception of Metlakatla, Southeast communities have been part of Alaska Time ever since.

The first notable time zone action after the mid 1980s was a maverick move made by Little Diomed Island residents in the summer of 1993. This island, located west of the Seward Peninsula in northwestern Alaska, lies near the 170th meridian. Because the island is so far west of the 135th meridian (where the midday sun is at its zenith according to Alaska Time), the sun did not reach its zenith until 3:20 p.m. during the winter and 4:20 p.m. during the summer. Such a huge discrepancy from the norm made residents "weary of hunting and berry picking in the dark," so on August 1, 1993, they unilaterally decided to move their clocks back three hours and establish "Little Diomed Time." The move proved popular for island residents, and several months later, a newspaper update stated "So far, the state and federal powers-that-be have looked the other way while the village lives at its own rhythm." But before long transportation firms, government officials, and the villagers themselves became annoyed by the confusion it caused. A year after their initial decision, residents decided at a village council meeting to go back to Alaska Time. (26)

In recent years various Railbelt residents have grown restless with the existing time regime, and the primary manifestations of that restlessness have been attempts to eliminate daylight saving time. The first such move took place in January 1999, when Representative Vic Kohring introduced House Bill 4. That bill failed in committee, but the idea remained a hot-button issue to some in Southcentral Alaska. During the 2002 legislative session, Representative Ken Lancaster pushed a similar bill that generated the first significant debate on the topic in almost twenty years. While Lancaster's effort did not succeed, it and the discussions it generated suggest that Alaskans are far from unanimous in their acceptance of the present time zone regime. (27)

The history of time zones in Alaska has been much more dynamic and contentious than in other states. Certainly, for many states, geography placed them unarguably within a single time zone. But even states on the frontier between two time zones have had more stable time regimes than Alaska, and residents of other states have seldom engaged in extended public debate over time systems. The only nationwide changes experienced in time zones since their establishment in the 1880s came with the introduction of daylight saving during two world wars, passage of the Uniform Time Act, or because of the energy crisis of the early 1970s, when for two years the nation observed year-round daylight saving time.

In Alaska, however, several other factors have affected time regimes. Alaska's size gives it the unique status of spreading across nearly 60 degrees of longitude, equivalent to four time zones. When the federal government in 1918 ignored that complexity and attempted to dictate that all the territory fit in one time zone, Alaskans showed a characteristic unwillingness to accept the dictates of the distant U.S. Congress. Consequently, Alaskans and the federal government observed different systems of time zones for almost fifty years. Internal Alaskan politics has also played a role. Political motives tied to Juneau retaining the state capital prompted unification of the vast majority of the state in one time zone, even at the expense of placing most of the state's population an hour or more off sun time. Railbelt residents, moreover, were willing to go along with the move because it eased communications between Alaska and the Lower 48, and because it made satellite television transmission of sports and other live broadcasts more in synch with their daily schedules. Another factor relating to time zone dynamism has been the power of economic alliances. For example, between the two world wars, communities in Alaska's Southeast moved their clocks to Pacific Time in order to more easily conduct business with Puget Sound commercial interests, and in the 1980s, businesses in western Alaska argued to be placed in the same time zone as Anchorage, the state's business center.

Over the last century, Alaska's time zones have rarely been static for more than twenty years. There have been many local moves to revolt from prescribed time systems, and in a state spanning almost 60 degrees of longitude, many people remain unhappy with the current time system in Alaska. Future tension over time regimes, therefore, appears to be inevitable.

Notes

1. G. J. Whitrow, *The Nature of Time* (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1973), 87; Michael Lemonick, "The Riddle of Time," *Time*, December 27, 1999, 144; W. A. Douglas Jackson, *The Shaping of Our World; A Human and Cultural Geography* (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1985), 527-29; Ian R. Bartky, *Selling the True Time: Nineteenth-Century Timekeeping in America* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000), 12-13.
2. In the summer of 1884, a Sitka visitor made the following observation: "A fine clock is in the [Russian Orthodox] church tower, and the tourist who has kept Astoria or ship's time realizes how far west he has gone when he finds his watch 45 minutes faster than the Sitka church clock." *New York Times*, October 27, 1884, 2.
3. Jo Ellen Barnett, *Time's Pendulum: The Quest to Capture Time* (New York: Plenum Trade, [1998]), 130; Pierre Berton, *The Last Spike: The Great Railway, 1881-1885* (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1971), 328; *Encyclopedia Americana*, 1995, "time zone"; *New York Times*, April 19, 1883, 1 and November 18, 1883, 3. A full discussion of this process is provided in Ian R. Bartky "The Adoption of Standard Time," *Technology and Culture* 30 (January 1989): 25-56 and in Bartky, *Selling the True Time*, 47-89, 139-46. The coterminous U.S., and all Canadian provinces except Newfoundland, still observe the same five time zones that the railroads devised in 1883, although Provincial Time is now called Atlantic Time. Many changes, however, have been made in time zone boundaries. *World Almanac and Book of Facts, 1954* (New York: Press Publications, 1953), 418.

4. The Signal Corps also built a short segment between Eagle and the Canadian border, which they completed in May 1901. *Daily Alaskan* (Skagway), May 3, 1901. Also see the *Daily Alaska Dispatch* (Juneau), July 12, 1900; *Valdez News*, August 29, 1903 and November 28, 1903; U.S. Army Signal Corps, *Report of the Chief Signal Officer* for 1900 (pp. 945-60), 1901 (pp. 915-24), 1902 (pp. 661-71), and 1903 (pp. 30, 325-33).
5. *Daily Alaskan* (Skagway), August 27, 1901 and September 9, 1901; Ken S. Coates and William R. Morrison, *Land of the Midnight Sun* (Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1988), 169; *Alaskan* (Sitka), September 3, 1904; *Annual Report of the Governor of Alaska to the Secretary of the Interior*, 1901 (pp. 39, 77), 1902 (p. 50), and 1903 (pp. 26-27); Major Gen. A. W. Greely, *Handbook of Alaska* (New York: Scribner's, 1909), 260; *Valdez News*, October 8, 1904; *Report of the Chief Signal Officer* for 1903 (pp. 32, 332), 1904 (pp. 357-69), and 1905 (pp. 171-200). Quesnel was the northernmost point in the British Columbia telegraph grid.
6. *Annual Report of the Governor of Alaska, 1901*, 73.
7. Alaska historian Robert N. DeArmond notes one colorful example of a town's deviance from standard time: "For many years on Gastineau Channel the Treadmill mine blew a noon whistle by which many people on both sides of the channel set their clocks. A problem was that Treadwell's clocks were half an hour different than standard time, . . . so it was common, when a time was to be specified, to announce that it would be '1 o'clock by the Treadwell,' etc." DeArmond to the author, March 24, 2000.
8. *Seward Gateway*, October 2-3, 9, and 23, 1916; Mary J. Barry, *Seward, Alaska; a History of the Gateway City, Vol. II: 1914-1923, the Railroad Construction Years* (Anchorage, the author, 1993), 46. The *Seward Gateway* on October 2 also stated that "Ketchikan is one town which has just gone back to normal time after putting its clocks ahead," suggesting that Ketchikan experimented with daylight saving time during 1916; but a perusal of the *Ketchikan Daily Progressive-Miner* for April through October 1916 showed no such activity.
9. *Congressional Record*, 65th Cong., 1st sess., 1917, 55:4355; *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, February 7, 1942.
10. *Daily Alaska Empire*, May 21, 1926 and May 19-20, 1933. The May 20, 1933 issue noted "This is the first time daylight saving time has been tried out in Juneau in several years." But a perusal of springtime issues of the *Empire* between 1925 and 1932 casts doubt that Juneau experimented with daylight saving time between 1919 and 1933.
11. *Daily Alaska Empire*, May 6, 19-20, and 24, 1933 and September 20, 1933.
12. Merle Colby, *A Guide to Alaska, Last American Frontier*, American Guide Series (New York, Macmillan, 1950), xxxv.
13. *Daily Alaska Empire*, May 20, June 6, and July 6-8 and 22, 1939, and April 3 and 30, 1940. One of the few Juneau Chamber members who opposed the change was grocer Frank Garnick, who exclaimed, "What are you going to do with that extra hour in the evening, anyway? You're running yourself to death as it is." The city council actions of various Southeast communities, independent as they were, had no bearing on the official Alaska time zone that had been legislated by Congress in 1918. Legislative Reporting Service, [Alaska Legislative] *Report*, 1967, 21.
14. *Seward Bulletin*, February 9, 1942; *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, February 9, 1942; *Daily Alaska Empire*, February 9, 1942 and September 29, 1945. An Alaska map published by the Kroll Map Co. of Seattle-undated, but probably drawn during World War II-suggests that all of southeastern Alaska followed Yukon Daylight Time except for Annette and Duke Islands, southwest of Ketchikan, which followed Pacific Daylight Time. Kroll Map Co., "Alaska," in author's collection, courtesy of Bruce Greenwood.
15. *Congressional Record*, 79th Cong., 1st sess., 1945, 91:8466, 8540; *Daily Alaska Empire*, September 29, 1945.
16. The 162nd meridian dividing line, new since the outbreak of World War II, meant that Bethel was now on Alaska Time, an hour later than it had been in prewar days. Alaska, during this period, was one of just a handful of states or territories where none of its residents observed daylight saving time.
17. *Anchorage Times*, May 14-15 and 21-22, September 29-30, and October 6, 1954.
18. Legislative Reporting Service, *Report* for 1960 (p. 135), 1961 (pp. 124, 164, and 181), and 1963 (pp. 46-47); *Daily Alaska Empire*, March 27, 1961, A1 and March 20, 1963, 2; *North Wind*, May 1965, June 1965, September 1965, October 1, 1965, and October 15, 1965. The Yukon Territory soon withdrew its action regarding Pacific Time; by 1966, it was back on Yukon Time, though it also observed daylight saving time. Pacific Northern Airlines, "Alaska Flight Maps," 1966, courtesy of Bruce Greenwood.
19. *Congressional Record*, 90th Cong. 2nd sess., 1968, 112:6009-10, 7565, 8285; *Juneau Alaska Empire*, April 26, 1968, 8. The federal Department of Transportation, just a year after its September 1966 establishment, proposed shifting southeastern Alaska back to Yukon Standard Time. Local communities, however, fought the change and it was put on hold-at least for the time being. *North Wind*, September 1967, 2.
20. *Juneau Empire*, September 21, 1979, 1; *Alaska Economic Report*, September 29, 1979, 2; *Southeastern Log*, November 1979, 2. During DOT's public comment period for the proposed change, only six of the 26 received comments supported the time change.
21. *Southeastern Log*, April 1980, 28; May 1980, 13; July 1980, 13; August 1980, 5; *Alaska Economic Report*, June 18, 1980, 6; *Juneau Empire*, September 22, 1980, 1. On August 26, Overstreet and the four assembly members survived the attempt to oust them from office.
22. *Alaska from the Inside*, January 26, 1983, 3; *Alaska Legislative Digest*, March 27, 1983, 6; April 2, 1983, 5; April 16, 1983, 7; *House Bill History, 1983-1984*, 446-47; *Senate Bill History, 1983-84*, 838. As noted in the *Alaska Economic Report*, March 24, 1983, 7, opponents of the capital move pushed the measure, hoping that "the time

shift will help put the bitter Alaska capital move issue to sleep.' Voters rejected the capital move 96,931 (52.9%) to 86,312 (47.1%). *Juneau Empire*, November 11, 1982, 1.

23. *Juneau Empire*, September 16, 1983, 1-2; *Nome Nugget*, September 22, 1983, 1. In the hearings, a group of Anchorage and Juneau residents testified in support of the change, although there was "some opposition" from Fairbanks and Ketchikan.

24. *Milepost* [1985] (Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Publishing, 1985), 494. Because the time-zone boundary change brought so many Alaskans into a single time zone, Alaska's two senators acted to change the names of Yukon Time to Alaska Time, and the name of Alaska-Hawaii Time to Western Pacific Time. After modification through the legislative process, Yukon Time was changed to Alaska Time and Alaska-Hawaii Time was renamed Hawaii-Aleutian Time. This law also changed the name of Bering Time, which by then did not apply to any Alaskan territory, to Samoa Time. *Ketchikan Daily News*, October 29, 1983, 1; *Alaska Magazine*, August 1984, 30; *Congressional Record*, 98th Cong., 1st sess., 1983, 129:29511-12, 29524, 29570, 32700, 34225, 34227, 34684.

According to DOT official Joanne Petrie, Indian reservations are not bound to follow time zones imposed by neighboring jurisdictions. Given that independence, Metlakatla tribal members reiterated their interest in keeping Pacific Time in the November 1984 vote, and the community has remained in Pacific Standard Time, on a year-round basis, to the present day. Judy Lauth (MICC executive tribal secretary), interview with author, March 20, 2001.

25. *Alaska Magazine*, March 1984, 20 and February 1985, A4; *Anchorage Daily News*, April 23, 1986, C4 and July 10, 1986, C4; *Juneau Empire*, October 3, 1984, 12 and April 23, 1986, 2; *Alaska Economic Report*, September 9, 1985, 5; *Ketchikan Daily News*, September 4, 1985, 4; September 24, 1985, 4; October 8, 1985, 1; November 17, 1985, A3; December 29, 1985, B2; and July 8, 1986, 1; Joanne Petrie (DOT) to author, email, February 23, 2000. On December 1, at least one Ketchikan business unilaterally switched to Pacific Standard Time. *Southeastern Log*, December 1983, A4-A5; January 1984, A-18.

26. *Anchorage Daily News*, August 4, 1993, B1-B2 and November 3, 1993, B5; Herb Anungazuk, interview with author, March 15, 2001; Philip Ahkinga to author, fax, June 13, 2001; Philip Ahkinga interview with author, June 13, 2001.

27. *House Bill History, 1999-2000*, 17; *Anchorage Daily News*, June 12, 2000, A1; March 18, 2002, B1; April 6, 2002, B1-B2. [Editor's note: Although this issue is dated 2001, it was not published until the summer of 2002.]

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2015 6:11 PM
To: Erin Shine; Doniece Gott
Subject: FW: TESTIMONY PROMOTING (SB) 6

From: Peter O. Hansen, MD [mailto:hansenmd@alaska.net]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2015 5:44 PM
To: pohansen@alaska.net
Subject: TESTIMONY PROMOTING (SB) 6

February 23, 2015

RE: Senate Bill #6 – Repeal of Daylight Saving Time

SUBJECT: Testimony promoting and in favor of repealing Daylight Saving Time – (SB)6

My name is Peter O. Hansen, M.D. I have been a Family Physician, living and practicing in Kenai, Alaska for 48 years. I remember the wonderful times of getting up in the morning and going fishing, working in the garden, mowing the lawn or hiking, with the sun to my back prior to going to work. This was a time when 8:00 a.m. by the sun dial was 8:00 a.m. in Kenai; and the sun came up about 3:30 a.m. How great it was!

The majority of our working population goes to bed somewhere around 10:00 p.m. and gets up at 6:00 a.m. With summer daylight saving time and the State being primarily on one time zone, the sun sets a little after midnight and comes up about 5:30 a.m. Wouldn't it be nice if the sun set about 11:00 p.m. and came up at 4:30 a.m. (without Daylight Saving Time; saving one major time zone) so those wanting to fish, hike, garden, sip coffee on the deck could do this with a decent amount of sunlight warmth.

Commercial fishermen often have open fishing in summers from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Repeal of DST would give them an extra hour of sunshine and warmth in the morning as they are preparing to head out.

Physically speaking, our bodies grow up with a habit of circadian rhythm, which means we adapt to a pattern of periods of being awake and of sleep. Suddenly changing this in the spring and the fall of each year disturbs a number of people as has been shown by studies in Scandinavian countries.

In the heavily populated area of Alaska there is no understandable need for having DST. Newcomers to Alaska since 1967 and 1983, have never experienced how *good* life can be having an extra hour of sunlight in the morning.

The quality of life for the majority of us living in Alaska would be improved with repeal of Alaska daylight saving time.

Doniece Gott

From: Erin Shine
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2015 1:30 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: Daylight Saving Time

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2015 11:29 AM
To: Erin Shine
Subject: FW: Daylight Saving Time

From: Janet Smith [<mailto:janetsmithak@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2015 9:37 AM
To: Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Daylight Saving Time

All,

This email is to let you know that I support SB 6 Eliminate Daylight Saving Time. I hope you are successful this time with this bill. There is no need for DST in Alaska. My life would be better without it.

I reside in House District 3 so I think that puts me in Senate District B.

Thank you.
Janet Smith

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

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.

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

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.

Juneau

Chamber of Commerce

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UAS
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Wostmann and Associates

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

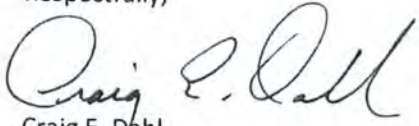
The Juneau Chamber of Commerce represents a membership of approximately 400 businesses in Juneau. Based upon feedback from some of our members, we took the time to conduct a member survey regarding the repeal of *Daylight Savings Time*. Our survey was responded to by over 25% of our membership. The results 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 opposing the repeal 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.
- 2) 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig E. Dahl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Craig" being the most prominent.

Craig E. Dahl
Executive Director
Juneau Chamber of Commerce

cc: Senator Dennis Egan
Representative Sam Kito
Representative Cathy Munoz

From: John Wallace [mailto:tundratech@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 10:25 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Rep. Bob Herron
Subject: SB 6

Good Morning-

This eMail is with regards to SB6.

I am against this bill for a number of reasons, two of which I will state here:

1) In the fall time in the Arctic, conservation of daylight is a premium issue. Keeping as much daylight during the workday as possible is really important. It is safer to work in the daylight and also much more efficient. It may only be a week or so before the gain is lost, but it truly is important to those of us that don't work a traditional workday and work until the work is done. In other words, I start my workday, but don't end it until I am done. Not necessarily at a given hour. So the added daylight is very welcome.

2) Moving to a system that is different from the rest of the United States is not efficient either. I remember the days when even Alaska was in separate time zones. It was a struggle to do business. Even now, trying to deal with East Coast companies is tough when they are going home at the middle of our workday.

Lastly, please read the following concerning my preference, which is to stay ON Saving Time!

From NY Times - <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2014/03/06/daylight-saving-time-at-what-cost/keep-daylight-saving-time-year-round>

Extending daylight saving time year-round would save lives, reduce crime, save energy and stop Americans from losing sleep each time we switch our clocks.

First, darkness kills. Delaying sunset by an hour would save over 350 American lives annually, by reducing traffic fatalities during the evening. The change from daylight to twilight causes a 300 percent increase in fatal vehicle-pedestrian crashes, and the evening rush hour produces twice as many accidents as morning (nearly everyone is awake and moving about in early evening; whereas many are still asleep at sunrise).

Second, criminals love darkness. Numerous types of crime, including robbery, assault, motor vehicle theft and juvenile crime, peak during the early evening hours once the sun sets, while the corresponding rates are low during morning. Criminals are simply late to rise and late to bed, and we should take advantage of it by removing one hour from their workday.

Third, energy is saved by daylight saving time. Why? There is greater use of fossil fuels and electricity during evenings than mornings (because more Americans are awake). Hence, shifting sunlight to the evening causes a reduction in evening peak load, which outweighs a small increase in the early morning

load caused by daylight saving time. This was the primary reason that the U.S. moved to year-round daylight saving time during World War II and the 1970s oil crisis.

Fourth, the switching of the clocks during fall and spring is concerning. Studies show a significant increase in traffic fatalities for the week following the spring time change (after we lose an hour of sleep), and shockingly the same result after we gain an hour in Fall. Why? Because altering sleep cycles negatively impacts health, coordination and alertness. This impact extends even to financial markets: on Mondays after the time changes, the NYSE, AMEX and Nasdaq exchanges average a one-day loss of \$31 billion.

There are only so many hours in the day -- we must take advantage of them the best we can.

Thank You

John L. Wallace
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"Life is a banquet, and most poor suckers are starving to death!" -- Mame Dennis (Auntie Mame)

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