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On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal
and World Affairs

Measure: SB1548

Aren't Oregon summers, the best? After-work ballgames with the kids at the park, happy hours with friends in the warm sun, garden work til dusk, dinners on the deck during long sunsets. In summer, we wake up, work hard, then play late. It's the Oregon way.

In just a few months, on June 22, the sun is slated to rise at 5:22 AM PDT and set at 9:02pm. Were the legislators of this fine state to adopt full-year standard time, the sun would set at 8:02pm and rise at 4:22 AM. That's *four twenty-two in the morning.* I sure wouldn't be able to get up and out of the house any earlier than I do now, would you? I'm willing to bet that other folks will keep the same setting on their alarm clocks, too. For the majority of us, that's a full hour of sun that'd be spent trying to stay asleep instead of watching our kids play ballgames at the park. How much money will parks & rec departments have to pay for an extra hour of electricity use to keep the fields open and lit? How much more will taxpayers be asked to pay?

The campaigners for year-round standard time claim to be concerned about the restful sleep needs of fellow Oregonians. They'll tell you that clock shifts "disrupt circadian rhythms" and cause great distress. It's very kind to think about the health of others. But how exactly would 4:00 AM sunrises help anyone get more rest? Will the state offer to purchase blackout shades for every household to compensate for the loss of morning darkness in the summer?

I thought the citizens of this state were made of tougher stuff than I'm hearing from those supporting this bill. "Changing time makes me tired." "It's annoying to change my clocks." For crying out loud, people, it's two days of mild inconvenience. Two days of mild inconvenience and the back-breaking work of pressing some buttons on the dang microwave. Two days of inconvenience versus months of lost sleep due to 4AM-to-5AM summer sunrises. Two days of inconvenience versus 200+ days of lost sunny evening time after work.

SB 1548 is an absurd and harmful proposal based on wishywashy logic. Other than saving some microwave button punches, it would do absolutely nothing to solve any of the problems it proposes exist. Indeed, it would create actual new ones we'd have to deal with. Keep the status quo—oppose it.