

Submitter: George Chadwick
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1548

I am strongly opposed to the proposal to change to year-around Standard Time in Oregon. In Oregon summers, the sun already rises very early and goes down early. Where I live, in La Grande, if we were on Standard Time in the summer, sunrise would be at 4:24 am on June 21st (the longest day of the year), and sunset would be at 7:44 pm. By August 20th, the sunset would be at 6:50 pm! We would benefit from more daylight in the evenings--not less. On Standard Time in the summer, when we get up in the morning it would already be hot outside (so much for working outside before it gets hot in the morning), and in the evening the daylight would limit outdoor summer activities, including youth sports. For example, even on Daylight Savings Time, the daylight in August fades so early in my town that it starts getting difficult to complete soccer games that begin at 8 pm. On Standard Time it would be difficult to complete games that start at 7pm! Of course Standard Time would give us more daylight in the morning, but not many of us would benefit from moving sunrise from 5:24 am to 4:24 am (even with a 5:24 am sunrise it is getting light well before 5 am). Do we really want to add an hour of daylight in the wee hours of the morning at the expense of an hour of daylight in the evening when most of us are awake and many of us are wanting to enjoy some evening daylight? I, for one, do not, and I expect that not most Oregonians would feel similarly.

I think that going to year-around Standard Time is moving in the wrong direction. I am in favor of going to year-around Daylight Savings Time, as our State has been trying to do. But if that is not an option, our current system with an annual spring-forward and fall-back is much, much better than going to year-around Standard Time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
George Chadwick
La Grande, Oregon