

Submitter: Joseph Tillotson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SB1548

I care deeply about this subject because of how it will affect the lives of all Oregonians. I will admit, it will be for all intents and purposes impossible to know what living in my lat/long (in Washington County) will be like having year-round Standard time, before actually experiencing it. However, there are several facts that are that - scientific facts - if we are in Standard time year-round:

* if the state of Washington does not join us, then traveling to<-->from Vancouver<-->Portland will be a bizarre experience ~ 8 months out of the year (currently PDT lasts for 65% of the year, PST 35%). In all honesty, for Oregon to 'go it alone' is ludicrous, and I am shocked that literally 50% of the Oregon senate thinks this is okay. 10's-of-thousands of PDX citizens travel PDX<-->Van, and even for those that don't, it will cause a TON of confusion to remember: "oh yeah, they are in the other time zone" every time we turn on the TV to watch the news (for example), or make a phone call.

* in June, dawn will begin at ~ 3:42 AM, and sunrise will be at 4:20 AM. IOW, it will be 'very much daylight' by 4:00 AM! If a family has young kids, they will need black-out drapes / shades far more than they do now. For someone waking up at a 'normal time' (say, 7:30 AM for example), the sun will by then be far higher than they are used to, and the air far warmer.

* In May/June/July, it will be hot (on hot days) by mid-morning. No more 'cool morning walks' unless you get up 1 hour earlier.

... anyway, you get the point. Be careful what you wish for, you just might get it. I really do not think that most people realize what it will be like here in Portland, and they think "hey Hawaii and AZ do it, why can't we?" AZ and HI have far different situations than 'we' do, because of their Lat and their Long. AZ is mainly clear in the winter (so clouds do not block either sunrise or sunset) and PHX is at ~ the same Latitude as San Diego. So, it is a 'world away' from Portland in that regard.

It is a pain to switch times I will admit (especially the 'Spring forward' part), but honestly I feel that here in NW Oregon, staying in *either* PST time year-round, *or* PDT year-round, will both come with significant downsides. Going through one time-switch (that is painful - Spring Forward) per year is a small price to pay for the benefit we get with our current model, in both Winter and Summer.

Finally, if anyone raises the point: "even if this saves one life, isn't it worth it? Here is my answer:

* no one knows how many lives this will save

* if the above were true, then we would lower the speed limit on I-5 to 55, or even 50, or 45, or 40... (after all, each subsequent level slower will in fact save lives, so why don't we do it? A: because there has to be a balance in every law we enact. If

'saving lives' were the #1 factor for each law, we would not even allow cars on our roads, because cars inevitably lead to crashes and loss of life.

I believe this important of a choice needs:

1. to be voted on by the public
2. to be only done in conjunction with our population neighbors: WA & CA