

Submitter: John Wallin  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB1548

I am opposed to SB1548, the bill to abolish Daylight Saving Time in Oregon. I understand that adopting permanent Daylight Time requires federal action and the desire to adopt a single year-round time to ease the pain of the twice-yearly clock change is compelling, but this bill deserves wider discussion among Oregonians than is possible in the limited short session and should not be rushed through at this time.

There are a number of issues with this bill that should be more widely discussed:

- This bill would shift sunlight to the mornings in the summer; this will result in sunrises before 5 a.m. and light well before that time. While rising with the sun and going to bed in the dark may make sense from a biological standpoint, most of us do not have the luxury of adopting a lifestyle that simply changes with the sun. Businesses and schools will continue to operate as before. The hours of sunlight that are currently utilized by Oregonians for recreation after work and school will be lost. Long, warm summer evenings will be a thing of the past, replaced by bright, often chilly mornings. When school resumes in September, students will have an hour less of time after school for activities with friends or sports teams. If we think the several days of adjustment to changing to and from daylight time has mental health impact, please consider the impact of months of missed activities due to premature darkness in the evenings.

- This bill does not make winter mornings any lighter than they already are because Standard Time is already in effect during the winter. Unlike Hawaii and Arizona, states which have adopted permanent standard time, Oregon is located far to the north and the seasonal tilt of the earth will result in longer days in summer and longer nights in winter.

- Time zones were carefully drawn to not divide population centers; as currently amended, if California also adopts Standard Time but Washington does not, Oregon is willing to break that rule and adopt Standard Time anyway, putting those who commute several miles between Vancouver and Portland in the position of changing their clocks twice a day.

- Permanent Standard Time on the west coast would put our state 4 hours behind Eastern Daylight Time from March to November, which would have a significant impact on our state's ability to compete economically in our New York/Washington based economy. We are already disadvantaged by 3 hours; let's not make it worse.

Time zones were adopted to provide a common reference to facilitate human interaction and commerce, not to provide perfect alignment with the sun at all times. While there is a point at which the sun actually achieves its zenith ("noon"), that time can vary by an hour or more when measured across the state. We don't need to peg the "perfect" time; just something reasonable we can agree to. Shifting summer daylight to a time mostly unusable by most Oregonians is not that reasonable compromise.

This bill solves the nuisance of changing clocks twice a day, but creates issues that deserve more conversation among Oregonians. Don't rush this through the short session. Please vote NO on 1548.