



8991 Yandukin Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

April 19, 2021

The Honorable Dan Ortiz
State Capitol Room 513
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB 31, An Act relating to daylight saving time

Dear Representative Ortiz:

We strongly support HB 31 and thank you for introducing this important legislation.

This legislation would end the annual spring forward and fall back between Standard Time and Daylight Saving Time (DST), eliminating the health issues associated with the unnecessary time change ritual. This was a driving factor that led to the introduction of a Senate bill during the 29th legislature that would have eliminated DST. But because that approach had substantial adverse impacts on Alaska's tourist industry and financial managers, it did not pass.

However, by making DST permanent instead of Standard Time permanent, this bill would not only end the twice-a-year changing of our clocks it would

1. Maintain the existing daylight hours in the summer that are critical for the Alaska tourist industry to maximize tourist excursions;
2. Extend daylight hours later in the day during the winter, allowing for later flight operations and more after school daylight hours; and
3. Reduce the time zone difference between Alaska and the east coast financial markets to three hours instead of four hours during the winter, thereby having a positive effect on all financial managers, including those of the Permanent Fund Corporation.

Additionally, with the recent pandemic and economic catastrophe related to the tourism industry, particularly in Southeast Alaska, maximizing any opportunity to build back a strong economy is crucial.

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We are also very encouraged that the three other west coast states are supporting year-round DST, as well as potentially British Columbia. For the reasons listed above, Alaska should join our neighbors in this effort to have the US Department of Transportation approve year-round DST for all four west coast states, if not the entire United States.

We look forward to supporting this legislation in any way possible, including testifying in favor of it at any legislative hearing. By copy of this letter, we are also encouraging the Senate and Governor to also support this bill, expediting its passage, and signing it into law.

Please advise us when the bill is scheduled for a hearing so we can be sure to testify.

Sincerely,



Edward K. Kiesel
President

cc: *House State Affairs Committee Members*
The Honorable Rep. Louise Stutes, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Sen. Peter Micciche, Alaska Senate President
The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy, Governor of Alaska