

Speak Out On Daylight Savings Time!

SB 6 concerning the elimination of Daylight Savings Time is scheduled in the House State Affairs Committee next Thursday, April 2nd.

The Juneau Chamber of Commerce **opposes the repeal of Daylight Savings Time** based upon the impact that the loss of an additional hour of daylight during the peak months of business activity will have on aviation, marine services and many retail businesses serving the cruise industry. The loss of another hour of daylight during the summer also affects the overall quality of life for those who live and work in the region.

Repealing Daylight Savings Time will result in the following changes:

- Alaska will stay on 'winter' time. Alaska will be two hours behind Seattle (PDT) and five hours behind New York (EDT) when they shift to daylight savings time.
- When these regions return to standard time we will be one hour off Seattle and four hours off New York, as we are currently. This will confuse businesses and individuals across the country.
- Sunset during the summer months will be an hour earlier than current, impacting flight operations, marine charters, retail businesses tied to cruise ship passengers.
- Businesses who work with companies on the east coast, will have to start earlier in the day or lose an hour of cross-over time.

We encourage you to email a letter **from your business** and from you personally, **opposing** the repeal of Daylight Savings Time. The legislature needs to hear **from you** about the impact such a change will have on your business, employees and customers. If you are unable to send a letter, or wish to remain unanimous, send your comments to jcc@alaskan.com and we will get your comments in front of the Legislature.

It will also be impactful if you can attend the hearing on Thursday April 2nd and testify against the bill. Testimony will be limited to 1-2 minutes, so a short statement of opposition is all that is required, but your attendance will send a strong message. Please attend if at all possible.

Please write/email to the House State Affairs Committee as soon as possible:

- Chair Representative Bob Lynn [Email: Representative.Bob.Lynn@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Bob.Lynn@akleg.gov)
- Vice Chair Representative Wes Keller [Email: Representative.Wes.Keller@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Wes.Keller@akleg.gov)
- Representative David Talerico [Email: Representative.Dave.Talerico@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Dave.Talerico@akleg.gov)
- Representative Liz Vazquez [Email: Representative.Liz.Vazquez@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Liz.Vazquez@akleg.gov)
- Representative Louise Stutes [Email: Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov)
- Representative Max Gruenberg [Email: Representative.Max.Gruenberg@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Max.Gruenberg@akleg.gov)
- Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins [Email: Representative.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov)

The only acceptable compromise is to ensure that "if" DST is repealed, that Alaska is moved to Pacific Standard Time, thereby preserving the hour of daylight that affects business and overall quality of life during our most active months. However, the preferred decision is "no change".

The Alaska State Chamber also opposes this bill as they did in 2009. A quote from the ASC "The variety of challenges the elimination might cause vary as widely as our Chamber membership does. Concerns include everything from reductions in tour hours to safe transportation of shift workers, and 3 a.m. East Coast conference calls to increased programming costs for transportation, shipping, logistics and broadcasting. **Taxes on Alaska business fund 95% of the State of Alaska's budget. Now is not the time to reduce revenue potential or raise technical and logistical issues for Alaska businesses."**

In 2009, over 70% of Alaska State Chamber members surveyed opposed eliminating DST. This year, the survey conducted by the Juneau Chamber of Commerce resulted in 76% of respondents opposing the repeal of DST.