December 5, 2019

Dear Chairman Schuring:

Senate Concurrent Resolution 8 is an opportunity for The United States to lead the way in eliminating the tradition of Daylight Saving Time change. The European Union will be eliminating time change in 2021. Besides Ohio, other states are on board. We need to lead the way. This is a bipartisan issue we can unite around.

Time change creates confusion for international business. As I mentioned, the European Union will be eliminating time change in 2021. International business is affected by the confusion of time change each year. Just this morning, my son texted me and told me that a meeting with colleagues in India had to be rescheduled because of confusion regarding our change to Standard Time. This will only be exacerbated as more of the world shifts away from time change.

There are negative health issues related to time change. Many studies have shown increased heart attacks and traffic accidents due to changing the clocks by an hour twice each year.

There is more evening traffic than morning traffic. An understandable concern about sticking with Daylight Saving Time permanently is the morning darkness and the effect on traffic accidents. However, the morning commute time is just that…commuters. The evening traffic is composed of not only commuters, but people travelling to social activities, shopping, sporting events, etc. Skewing more sunlight to the evening hours will make driving safer during those busy hours. Plus, much of the morning commute is in darkness anyway on Standard Time.

Skewing daylight toward evening hours simply makes those hours more useable. We are becoming much more of a service economy, and those who work "nine to five" obviously are affected most by Standard Time each year. While it's the source of memes and jokes, the shift to Standard Time in November is dreaded by the millions of office workers who essentially live out their entire personal life in the dark. That extra hour or so of evening daylight simply means a lot. We can analyze and study, but no one can argue that darkness at 5:00 PM is depressing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 8.

Guy Hufstetler
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