

Honorable Representatives:

I oppose HCR 7 because permanent daylight saving time (DST) would be harmful to the health and safety of Ohio residents.

The first Whereas clause mentions that the United States enacted year-round DST previously but omits that the public found it unsatisfactory. The 1973 experiment was supposed to be for two years, but the experience raised serious safety concerns, and Congress decided that one winter of extra dark mornings was enough. Energy usage has changed since then, but the human need for morning light has not.

The third Whereas clause does not say how Arizona opted out of seasonal DST. The Uniform Time Act of 1966 (15 USC §260a) defines a national schedule for DST but also allows any state to exempt itself by keeping standard time year round. Hawaii exercised this option immediately, Arizona did so the following year, and Indiana did until 2005. This is a more straightforward way for Ohio to end clock changes.

Proponents of HCR 7 have acknowledged that darker winter mornings would have an adverse effect on K-12 students unless schools alter their schedules. Rather than impose this burden on school districts just to maintain their present level of safety, health, and academic performance, it would be better to keep standard time so that a schedule change can improve conditions.

Midday is traditionally called 12 o'clock, not 1 o'clock. In Columbus, at 83°W longitude, mean solar time is 5 hours 32 minutes behind Greenwich mean time (GMT). EST is 5 hours behind GMT; at GMT-4 hours, EDT is the mean solar time of 60°W longitude, more appropriate for such places as Bermuda and Nova Scotia.

I respectfully ask the committee not to pass HCR 7.

Sincerely,
Michael Garrahan
Manassas, Virginia
Board member, Save Standard Time