



MESSAGE FROM MARSHA
House District 19, State Representative

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight Saving Time (DST) is used around the world to save energy by taking advantage of the lengthened daylight hours during the spring and summer months. Last session I supported a bill that would allow DST to begin earlier than in previous years. House Bill 1367 changed the date that DST would begin from the First Sunday of April, to the Second Sunday of March. With the passage of HB07-1367 Daylight Saving Time will have been extended from the last Sunday of October to the First Sunday of November. We added two additional weeks to the Day Light Saving Time with the passage of HB07-1367.

Since the early seventies Congress has modified the DST schedule numerous times, varying the length between four to six months. Recently, Congress passed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 changing the dates for DST beginning in 2007, with the goal of reducing nationwide electricity use by 1%.

HISTORY OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Benjamin Franklin proposed something akin to DST in a 1784 essay on the thrift of natural versus artificial light. He pointed out that families could save candle wax by going to bed when it was dark and rising with the sun. In 1916, the British first instituted a schedule of DST during WWI, in an attempt to save energy for the war effort. In 1918, Congress adopted four standard time zones based upon those established by the railroad companies. That

same year, Congress put the county on DST for the remainder of the war. The law was so unpopular it was repealed in 1919. Upon entering WWII Congress again instituted mandatory DST in February of 1942 and remained one hour ahead until 1945. From 1946-1966, states and local communities were free to do what they wanted, to either implement DST or not. Due to the lack of uniformity, there was considerable confusion, particularly in travel and media.

The Uniform Time Act (Public Law 89-387), passed by Congress in 1966, adopted a uniform time, called "Standard Time," within each of the time zones. It further established a schedule for DST, mandating that clocks be advanced one hour the last Sunday in April and turned back one hour on the last Sunday of October. Congress last altered the DST schedule in 1986 by beginning DST on the first Sunday in April.

ELECTRICITY SAVINGS

Studies completed in California found that Daylight Savings Time cut peak electricity by about 3% as a result of DST. In the 1980s Colorado considered implementing permanent DST as a means to reduce carbon monoxide (CO) levels in metropolitan areas. Near sunset, auto emissions are trapped near the ground by winter temperature inversions, sunlight helps to break up the CO and reduce emissions trapped by the cold air. That additional hour of sunlight could aid in dispersing CO concentrations during the evening rush hour. Denver could realize a 9% reduction in CO through observing DST year round.

OIL SAVINGS

The U.S. Dept. of Transportation estimates that DST could save the equivalent of 100,000 barrels of oil per day, and an additional 30 days of DST will save an additional 3 million barrels.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME or NOT

In order for a state to observe Daylight Saving Time for its time zone year round it would have to petition the U.S. Department of Transportation to change the time zones. The state legislature must enact a resolution requesting the department consider the change, and provide a socio-economic study to assure the convenience of commerce. A state that lies entirely within one time zone may exempt itself from DST as Arizona and Hawaii have done. In Colorado, such a change would require legislation. In 1987, a resolution failed in the State House of Representatives to test the year-round DST. In light of the rising earth's temperature, increased costs of energy, and energy savings, do you think Colorado should look at testing year round Daylight Savings Time or Not?

Your comments are important to me, please forward your responses directly to me at MarshaLooper@hughes.net, or go to my website at www.gomarsha.org. If you do not have internet access call me at 719-238-5600 and let me know where you stand on this issue.

Sincerely,

Marsha Looper