

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927

Minority (202) 225-3641

March 12, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Federal law prescribes that the time zones of the United States are to be advanced one hour each year, beginning on the second Sunday in March and ending on the first Sunday in November. This period, known as Daylight Saving Time, was extended by Congress in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 so that it now covers 238 days and is now the predominant time standard for the United States. The Department of Transportation is charged with enforcement of this policy under the Uniform Time Act.

Every year the change from Standard to Daylight Saving Time is greeted with at least some level of befuddlement and confusion. These include questions as to why the change occurs, what costs and benefits are associated with the change, and whether it would be simpler to remain on the Daylight Saving Time full time.

Pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Department of Energy submitted a report to Congress in 2007, in consultation with the Department of Transportation, outlining the impact of Daylight Saving Time on energy consumption.<sup>1</sup> The 2007 report found a 0.03 percent electricity savings, 0.02 percent total U.S. energy consumption savings, and no statistically significant change to traffic volume or motor gasoline consumption over the year as a result of extending Daylight Saving Time.

To more fully appreciate the various policy factors associated with changing between Standard and Daylight Saving Time, Congress would benefit from updated information you can provide with regard to the following:

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2015/05/f22/epact\\_sec\\_110\\_edst\\_technical\\_documentation\\_2008.pdf](https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2015/05/f22/epact_sec_110_edst_technical_documentation_2008.pdf)

1. Does the Department have any information related to the costs associated with the biannual change between Daylight Saving Time and Standard Time?
2. Is the Department aware of any updated research indicating changes to productivity, traffic impacts, energy consumption, consumer activity, or other economically relevant factors associated with the change to Daylight Saving Time?
3. Does the Department receive inquiries, complaints, or recommendations with regard to time standards, and if so, is there a predominant theme or trend with respect to such input?
4. Does the Department have a view as to whether there should be a change in the application of the time zones, and if so, what factors support that view?

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and any information you can provide either in writing or in a staff briefing. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Froelich or Greg Zerzan of the Majority staff at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,



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Greg Walden  
Chairman