

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 12, 2019

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science & Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science & Transportation
425 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

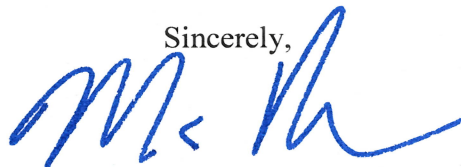
Dear Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Cantwell:

I respectfully request that the Commerce Committee consider and report S. 670, the Sunshine Protection Act of 2019, to the full Senate as soon as possible. The bill, which I first introduced in the 115th Congress, would end the biannual requirement to change our clocks between Daylight Saving Time (DST) and Standard Time. The legislation would not impact those states that currently do not observe DST, restrict states' ability to opt out of DST, nor would it alter time zones.

This non-partisan issue, which affects all Americans, is not a new idea, but is one worthy of consideration by the committee. Last year, Florida's legislature passed, and former Governor Scott signed, a law designating permanent DST. However, as you know, this requires amending the Uniform Time Act of 1966. Florida is not alone in the movement to end the unnecessary practice. In fact, many states have, and continue to consider measures which would make DST the standard time. Mississippi and Washington, for example, are just two of several states currently looking at the issue.

With the vast majority of Americans participating in DST for eight months out of the year, it has become clear this antiquated practice no longer serves any purpose. Adversely, studies have shown the time change has negative impacts, and that extending DST can benefit the economy and reduce energy consumption. For these reasons, I respectfully request you consider this important bill in committee at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator