

**Opening Statement for Republican Leader Cathy McMorris
Rodgers**
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
**Hearing on “Changing Times: Revisiting Spring Forward, Fall
Back”**
March 9, 2022
As Prepared for Delivery

Good morning, and welcome to our witnesses, especially Steve Calandrillo from the University of Washington – my alma mater.

I know Steve has done a lot of interesting work on Daylight Savings Time and I look forward to hearing his insights, as well as those of our other two witnesses. I'd also like to give a special shout out to State Senators Joe Schmick and Jim Honeyford back home who have both been leaders on this issue in Washington state.

On Sunday, most of the country will once again go through the ritual of moving our clocks ahead one hour. Statistics show that daylight savings coincides with worse student test scores and spikes in the number of car accidents, and heart attacks.

As the Chairman mentioned, together we are going to refresh the record on this topic with a renewed inquiry with the Secretary of Transportation, as his department is the enforcement mechanism for the Uniform Time Act.

Now, speaking as a mom, this ordeal is often a disruption of routine for our family, my kids are crankier because they have lost an hour of sleep, dinner time changes which makes us a little more irritable, and when we're off to work and school, drivers on our streets are in a rush as they adjust their own schedules. This

all adds up to a lot of more stress no matter who we are or what we do.

That said, there remain many issues that this committee should be prioritizing before daylight savings like unleashing American energy to help Ukraine and counter Russian aggression. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with the people of Ukraine who are fighting for their freedom and their lives.

This committee also continues to disregard many issues that are critical to our economic and national security like establishing a national privacy standard and securing American leadership in emerging technologies like AVs.

Americans deserve more robust discussion and action when it comes to public policy. As lawmakers, it is our responsibility to ensure this by enacting solutions that preserves our work over key aspects of our economy, from our energy supply to our leadership in technological innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as the supply chains that we rely on as a global leader. This committee can and must do more to address these issues.

I am pleased that we have a witness here today representing convenience store owners. I know my friends back home Tammie Hetrick and Dan Alsaker work closely with Mr. Beckwith. I wish we had witnesses at every hearing who conduct business in our communities, they know best how our action—or inaction—impacts hard-working Americans.

We need to make sure we are working for these communities and creating policies that improve their lives rather than complicate them.

Fred Upton, the Republican Leader on our Energy Subcommittee, has been a leader on the DST issue. I would like to yield to him to hear his insights as well today.