



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS

Tracy Caruso, Executive Director
NHAB
PO Box 5578
Manchester, NH 03108

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the state's radio and television stations, I am writing to urge you to reject HB 567, relative to using the Atlantic Time Zone in New Hampshire. This proposal would wreak havoc with many of the schedules and broadcasts of our member stations and create an undue burden on our ability to entertain and inform our viewers and our listeners.

NHAB is not opposed to eliminating daylight savings or shifting an hour ahead to the Atlantic Time Zone. It is the way in which this legislation implements the change that causes broadcasters such great concern. A piecemeal, state-by-state approach will create significant problems for the NHAB and its members.

For example, the three states (Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire) would have broadcast schedules one hour ahead of neighboring states. This will upset broadcast start times, including the NFL and MLB. It will upset the daytime/night time power rules for radio. It will expose stations to greater risk of indecency enforcement. FCC indecency rules are linked to a 10PM time period. Stations with signals overlapping state borders may be broadcasting content that complies with FCC indecency rules in one state, but violates the rules in another.

Most importantly, NHAB believes HB 567, or any legislation that would have states individually make changes to their time zones, would lead to an overall reduction in "real time" listening and viewing.

Specifically related to broadcasting, these changes would negatively affect both TV and radio.

For radio, some stations that can only broadcast overnight in the dark would be pushed off the air earlier to avoid interference with morning drive time radio.

For TV, program scheduling would be as chaotic as the patchwork time zone map. Presently, most networks deal with four main time zones, and a handful of exceptions (Hawaii, Alaska, Arizona, etc.). Having to set guides for individual states would create more headaches.



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As a region that is passionate about its professional sports teams, anyone who has ever dealt with orphan counties, blackouts, or other sports-related TV issues knows there's nothing more important than sports scheduling. Games would start well after bedtime on the East Coast, and international programming like the Olympics – for which contracts are set long in advance – would be thrown into chaos. Same goes for other popular live shows like the Oscars.

A regional approach, and preferably a national conversation is a more favorable way to make this change than for states to go it alone or in small, random clusters. Considering Congressional approval is required for any changes such as this, we recommend state leaders consult with Congressional leaders to make time zone adjustments that make sense for the entire country. Please vote no on HB 567.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tracy Caruso'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tracy Caruso, Executive Director
NHAB