

I ask that the Department of Transportation consider the following when making their decision on whether or not to place Mercer County in the central time zone. A major portion of Mercer County's business interests lie in the business of agriculture.

Agriculture is a dawn to dusk business. During the summer months, when farming is in full swing, dawn comes around considerably earlier than the opening hours of agriculturally related businesses in the mountain time zone that is now in effect in Mercer County.

Farmers who need to make repairs in order to get into the field and continue their work cannot take the time to wait until the machinery dealers in Mercer County open their businesses for operation in the morning. It is quite common for farmers living in Mercer County to get up, travel to McLean County or Oliver County in the central time zone, purchase the parts they need for repair, return back home, make the needed repairs to their equipment, and be out in the field working their land before the Mercer County machinery dealers have opened business for the day.

It would be to the advantage of both the Mercer County machinery dealers and the Mercer County farmers if Mercer County were on Central time and the business places opened their doors at an hour more closely approximating the actual beginning of the day.