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> From: darwin reinhardt
> Sent: Monday, October 23, 2000 4:17 PM
> To: Petrie, Joanne <OST>
> Subject: Mercer county, North Dakota

> Hello!!

> I am writing to comment on the recent DOT hearing held concerning the
> time change for Mercer county from Mountain time to Central time. I was
> in attendance at the hearing and happened to notice that most of the
> people whom were against the time change didn't really have a good
> argument as to why we should stay the same. They just cited personal
> reasons. I support the time change to Central time for economic as well
> as business reasons, putting aside my personal reasons. Our communities
> are dying here in the Dakotas and we need to have all the ammunition to
> stay in economic stride with our trading partners, those being the large
> metro areas such as Bismarck and Fargo. I am a shift worker and my job
> has been on Central time for 23 years. If you would, try to imagine
> living in a time zone where 2 miles from Beulah, ND, the next county is
> on Central time. Almost like a battle zone, with all the confusion,
> etc.... I'm reminded of my farmer friend, whom is also in support of
> switching to Central time, when he went into town to buy a part for his
> well, found that the store opened at 8 am Mountain time, Well, the store
> didn't have the part, So, they called Bismarck. It so happened that the
> person in Bismarck was on coffee break for a half hour, by the time he
> returned it was already noon in Bismarck. There goes another hour, still
> no part. After the person returns, now it's my lunch break, and finally
> at 2:30 pm Central time, he finds out that the part is not available in
> Bismarck. Now, they will call Fargo for the part. Gee!! A whole day
> wasted trying to locate someone for a part; the time zone difference
> cost him that day..

> In closing, Please consider the school events as well for our children,
> as they miss so much school trying to drive to Central time zone
> opponents, whom are an hour ahead. I just wish that those against
> switching would consider our most valuable people, that being the young
> people, whom, if surveyed, would most likely want to go to Central time.

> Thank You,
> Darwin Reinhardt

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