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October 4, 2000

OST-00-8013-43

Joanne Petrie
Senior Attorney
Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations and Enforcement
US Department of Transportation
400-7th St. S.W.
Room 10424
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Petrie:

We are residents of Mercer County and are sending you some comments about why the Time Zone in Mercer County should be changed to Central Time.

We've lived here for many years and have witnessed firsthand the effects of being on Mountain Time, such as:

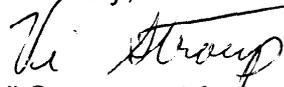
1. **Sports** - when our athletes are participating in sports activities in the Central Time Zone, they need to leave Hazen after lunch in order to get there on time. That certainly has an effect on classroom hours and academic achievements.
2. **Jobs** - families are living with two clocks. The husband goes to work on Central Time and the kids go to school on Mountain Time. Don't you think this gets a little confusing?
3. **Medical Appointments** - many of our people, out of necessity, need to go to Bismarck for certain medical procedures which are usually done early in the morning. That means **leaving** Mercer County at 5:30 a.m. Mountain Time to get to an 8:30 a.m. appointment on Central Time, and most of the appointments are even earlier than that. The only other option is to travel to Bismarck the night before and stay overnight, and you know the expense involved in that.
4. **College Courses** - Many of our students and adults take evening college courses in Bismarck, and in order to get there on time, they need to leave in the middle of the afternoon. This is a real hardship for many.
5. **Farmers** - certainly can adjust their working hours much more easily than business people. Farmers are individuals, but business people involve an entire community.

(More)

The fact that not too many people showed up in support of the time change is no indication that they aren't in favor of it. The vote represented that. Most people were just too busy and too involved to take the time going to the hearing and expressing their views.

Thank you for your consideration! We certainly appreciate your time!!!

Sincerely,



Vi Stroup and former State Senator Robert L. Stroup

