

# LOCAL CONGRESSMAN SLAMS DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

By Jake Jackson

WASHINGTON -- New Hampshire Representative Jonah Ryan (2nd District) surprised attendees at a Capitol Hill meeting with maple syrup producers and their lobbyists Thursday by launching into an extended tirade against Daylight Saving Time, declaring that "It's high time the government stopped trying to babysit all of us." Ryan drew a startled reaction from a crowd of about 30 who had been expecting to hear his views on how to support the state's maple farmers, in particular his plans to combat Canadian syrup dumping which, producers say, threatens the \$10 million a year industry.

"I'd never met Congressman Ryan but, of course, like everyone else I had heard stories," said Debra Delamere who with her husband, Lloyd, farms 2000 acres of maple forest near upstate Berlin. "I was expecting him to talk about maple syrup and maybe a little bit about maple sugar. Canadian producers are flooding the market with cheap syrup and it's driving us out of business. Instead he just walked in and started shouting about someone named Dick."



Congressman Jonah Ryan in his office.

In what appeared to be a spontaneous outburst, Ryan said that "Daylight Savings [sic] Time [should] suck my d\*\*k" and that he "hadn't had a babysitter since he was seven" and that he "didn't need a babysitter then and [he] didn't need one now."

While he said he found Ryan's thoughts on Daylight Saving Time "interesting," Joshua Lee from the DC lobbying firm of Bracewell, Meade, and Partners said he was disappointed not to have had an opportunity to approach the congressman about a bill promoting agri-tourism that would,

in his own words, "help New Hampshire's maplemen and maplewomen transition to a dual revenue stream model." Lee added that his bill would help insulate the farmers from market, seasonal, and weather-related factors that make maple syrup production such a challenging endeavor.

Another attendee, Chris Hardie of the family-owned Hardie Brothers Maple Sugar Candy Factory in North Conway, said that though he would like to have heard more about recent largely unsuccessful efforts by the Department of Agriculture to combat the

invasive Portuguese Bark Beetle which has spread south from Canada through Maine and now threatens New Hampshire's maples. Nevertheless, he said he "liked what Ryman [sic] said about Daylight Savings [sic] Time. I've always thought it was a giant pain in the butt." He added that he thought it was "pretty cool" that the congressman had not needed a babysitter after he was seven. "I had a sitter until I was 14," Hardie said.

Ryan has recently made a name for himself by taking on seemingly innocuous government programs like promoting healthy school lunches and the naming of NASA spacecraft as well as social issues like the proliferation of tip jars and whether visible bra straps are sexy. Ryan's Quixotic stands seem to be resonating with a small but vocal part of the population who have taken to social media to debate his various initiatives. A post on his official Facebook page about visible bra straps has received more than 188,000 "like"s.

Ben Cafferty, Ryan's Chief-of-Staff, attempted to clarify the congressman's remarks saying, "What Congressman Ryan wants is for government to work for all the people of this country but especially the people of New Hampshire. As you can tell, he's deeply passionate about that."