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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 07/12/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2007-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Commerce, Utilities and Rail
(SC-CUR)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**
- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... **RCP**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt**
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule**
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Sunday, February 24, 2008

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE UTILITIES AND RAIL.
MADISON, WI

Good morning Chairman Jeffery Plale and Senate Committee on Commerce Utilities and Rail.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on this very important issue, Senate Bill SB 525.

My name is Jack Sliwicki, past Commander of AMVETS "Jerome Sudut" Post #3929 in Wausau, WI Marathon County.

Our Amvets Post participates in the annual "ART IN THE PARK" as a food vendor with two locations. Amvets Post also sells brats and hotdogs out of a vending trailer on SAM'S CLUB parking lot one weekend a year. These activities are our fundraisers. These two events net our Post approximately \$3,000.00. The money is all donated to Veterans in the local area needing assistance, Veterans Hospitals, and Veterans nursing homes.

We already have fire extinguishers in place at all of our locations. If our Post were forced to install a fire suppression system at these events, our fundraisers would have to be to be halted. There are several other non-profit organizations serving food on this weekend. They would also find installing this system into their serving units financially cost prohibitive.

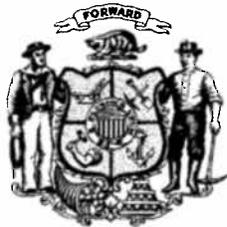
Thank you again for supporting our local fairs and charities.

I will entertain any questions at this time.

Sincerely,
Jack Sliwicki



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association, Inc.

Together We Can Make A Difference

- Education
- Prevention
- Safety
- Suppression
- EMS

DATE: March 5, 2008
TO: Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail
FROM: Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association
RE: Senate Bill 525

Please consider opposing Senate Bill 525. This legislation is a reaction to one inspector's interpretation and enforcement of the fire prevention code. The code does allow for flexibility in the enforcement of this section. The inspector as the "Authority Having Jurisdiction" (AHJ) upon evaluation for compliance has the flexibility in the code to exempt the temporary facility or allow an alternative to the suppression hood such as an extinguisher.

The WSFCA has worked very hard to adopt a model fire prevention code (NFPA 1/Uniform Fire Code) for the State of Wisconsin, which has very few Wisconsinisms (diversions from the model code). There are temporary facilities that need to have the suppression system provision enforced when the AHJ believes that facility is a safety threat to the public or the occupant of the temporary facility. This change in the code is unnecessary. The parties involved can deal with this issue without changing the code for the entire State of Wisconsin.

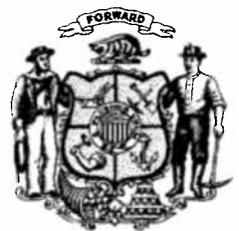
This legislation could create a situation that ties the hands of the AHJ and creates a dangerous environment for the residents and visitors to our special events in Wisconsin. The model code, which Wisconsin has adopted, will protect the residents and visitors to our state without this legislative change. The Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association asks that you please oppose Senate Bill 525.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Dave Bloom, Legislative Liaison, Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association at 608-444-3324.

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WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



March 5, 2008

Chairman Plale and members of Committee on Commerce, Utilities, and Rail.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony in support of Senate Bill 525, legislation that will help County and Local Fairs succeed in Wisconsin.

My name is Roger Otto and I am the Concession Superintendent at the Wisconsin Valley Fair in Wausau, Marathon County. I have been doing this for the past 29 years and have seen many changes with the fair industry. Every year thousands of people from all over Central Wisconsin come to our fair. While in some years past it was not unusual for our attendance for our six day fair to attract 180,000 fair goers. There are so many other events in our society that fairs are now competing with such as church festivals, balloon rallies, country music festivals and casinos. The attendance at our fair in 2007 dropped to approximately 136,000

One of the attractions that fairs offer each summer is a variety of food. We have about 40 food vendors at our fair many of them local service clubs and local people. The traditional summer items consist of items like brats, cheese curds, elephant ears, pork chop on a stick and a variety of foods that are mostly available only at fairs. There would be 22 vendors out of the 40 that would be affected by this bill.

Unfortunately, a new rule in the fire code could put some of these vendors out of business. This rule would require our vendors to purchase and install expensive fire suppression units for their mobil kitchens.

At a meeting with the Dept. of Commerce on Feb. 7, 2008 the dollar figure that was talked about was \$ 3,000 dollars. Then in addition to that there is an annual certified inspection that is required that may cost another \$ 75. Many of our vendors are non-profit organizations and only operate their kitchens a few days a year and simply cannot afford this expense. We have church groups, Optimist Clubs, Lion Clubs, the VFW, and the Kiwanis club.

If this bill does not pass to exempt these groups from these tough requirements, some will no longer be able to serve the public at our fair. In my 29 years working with the vendors, we have not had any incidents. Our vendors do comply with other requirements that the Wausau Fire Depts request.

There also are a couple of vendors that do not have enough space in their unit to install a hood and vent system and the fire suppression unit. They would be faced with discontinuing or buy an expensive new unit. At our fair we stress safety and we would never support something that we feel could endanger the public.

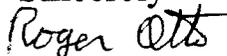
This bill is simple a common sense measure to allow our local vendors to keep operating at our fair.

We urge the members of the Committee to support this bill so that County Fairs may continue to operate for fair goers. Wausau is the only place that I know of that is enforcing this fire code. Our Vendors all have the class K fire extinguishers that can be used for grease fires.

I thank you for the time you have given me to present my message.

If there are any questions I will be willing to answer them.

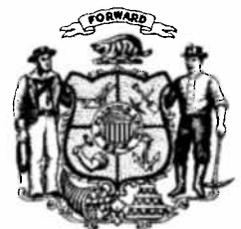
Sincerely


Roger Otto

Supt. Concessions Wis. Valley Fair.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities, Rail

Committee Chair – Senator Jeffrey Plale

My name is Wayne Brandt and I volunteer for the Wausau Noon Optimist.

The Wausau Noon Optimist is a charitable organization that helps the youth in Wausau and the surrounding areas.

Each summer volunteers for the Wausau Noon Optimist gather at the county fair to raise money by selling brats, cheese curds, pork chops on a stick and turkey legs.

Through out the year we use this revenue to help youth in the community by sponsoring girls and boys basketball tournaments, ice fishery, youth of the month, scholarships, free Webster's dictionary for all third grade students, donations to the Boy's and Girl's Club, and others.

We only operate our mobile kitchen for a few days each year and cannot afford to retrofit our existing equipment.

It would cost us approximately \$2,000 to \$5,000 to add a fire suppression system and hood to our mobile kitchen.

SB 525 is just a common sense initiative that will help all of the charities in our state that serve food.

We have safety equipment in place (fire extinguishers).

Wisconsin's fairs play an important roll in our cultural tradition and local food vendors are an important part of each fair. If this bill is not passed it could affect all fairs in the State of Wisconsin.

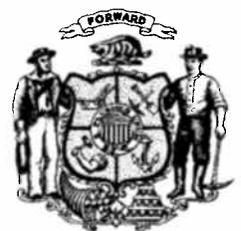
Please support this bill, SB 525, to keep that tradition alive and flourishing.

Thank you.

Handwritten signature of Wayne D Brandt in cursive script.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Chairman Mr. Pplale and members of the Senate Committee of Commerce, Utilities and Rail.

My name is Joe Voight and I volunteer for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is a charitable organization that helps to fund local projects.

Each summer volunteers for the VFW gather at the county fair to raise money by selling brats, cheese curds, hot dogs and etc at the fair.

The dollars we raise at the fair each summer are put to good use.

Through out the year we use this revenue to help people in the community by donating money to support: Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Little League Baseball, Boys and Girls Club, The Wausau Library, The Boy Scouts and many other worth while organizations.

As you can imagine, our organization does not have unlimited resources.

We only operate our mobile kitchen for a few days each year and cannot afford to retrofit our existing equipment.

It would cost us approximately \$4,000. to \$5,000., to add a fire suppression system and hood to our mobile kitchen.

Our charity cannot afford this cost and would not be able to operate at county fairs or local festivals in the future if this bill does not pass.

Bill SB525 is just common sense initiative that will help all of the charities in our state that serve food.

It is limited to only help non-profit groups and small mobile kitchens.

All other safety requirements remain in place.

Wisconsin's fairs play an important roll in our cultural tradition and local food vendors are an important part of each fair.

Please support this bill to keep that tradition alive and flourishing.

Thank you,


Joe Voight