



# TERRY MOULTON



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

23<sup>RD</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

**From: Senator Terry Moulton**

**To: Committee on Agriculture, Small Business and Tourism**

**Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 478**  
Relating to: requirements for automatic fire suppression systems at certain buildings on fairgrounds

**Date: January 13th, 2016**

Good morning Chairman and members. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about Senate Bill 478 and fire suppression systems in fairgrounds. This bill was brought to my attention by the Northern Wisconsin State Fair Chief Financial Officer, Rusty Volk and the Wisconsin Association of Fairs.

The Northern Wisconsin State Fair (NWSF) is constructing a seasonal pavilion which will be in use from May to October. The facility is designed with garage-style doors that remain open when the facility is in use, making the facility open air, while also providing secure off-season storage. However, after designs for the pavilion were complete and submitted for state approval, NWSF was informed that due to the garage-style doors, the building would be classified by the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) as an A-2 structure, requiring an automatic fire suppression system. Because this pavilion is a seasonal use facility, the A-2 designation is unnecessary and impractical. Installation of an automatic fire suppression system is both cost prohibitive and unsustainable for a pavilion that is open air and used only a few months of the year.

As fairgrounds across the state consider plans for future facilities, Senate Bill 478 would allow fairgrounds to build facilities that serve both as open air pavilions for seasonal use, as well as secure off season storage. Many fairs across the state are struggling. This legislation will help our fairs to maximize funds as they consider replacing old and outdated buildings. Senate Bill 478 would change requirements to allow for an exemption from installation of an automatic fire suppression system if a facility is located on a fairground, open to the public only for seasonal or temporary event use for fewer than 500 hours per year, and provides access by garage style doors that remain open when the facility is in use.

SB 478 will give Wisconsin fairgrounds more options as they consider future buildings and will help fairgrounds continue to provide events for our communities and families while ensuring patron safety. Thank you for allowing me to testify today. Please join me in supporting this legislation.

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*Serving the 23rd Senate District*



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**KATHY BERNIER**

January 13, 2016

**Senate Committee on Agriculture, Small Business, and Tourism**

*Testimony on Senate Bill 478*

Good morning Mr. Chairman and committee members. Thank you for hearing Senate Bill 478 today and for the opportunity to speak in favor of this proposal.

The Northern Wisconsin State Fair (NWSF), in cooperation with the City of Chippewa Falls Police and Fire Departments, recognize that a fairgrounds venue is best suited to host large gatherings of people. In order to accommodate events and activities, the NWSF is constructing a seasonal pavilion which will be in use from roughly May – October. Both the fire chief and building inspector were consulted in the planning and design of the facility to ensure the highest level of public safety for a facility of this type. To maximize the pavilion's usefulness, a series of garage-style doors will close to allow for 'off' season use to store picnic tables and other fairgrounds equipment.

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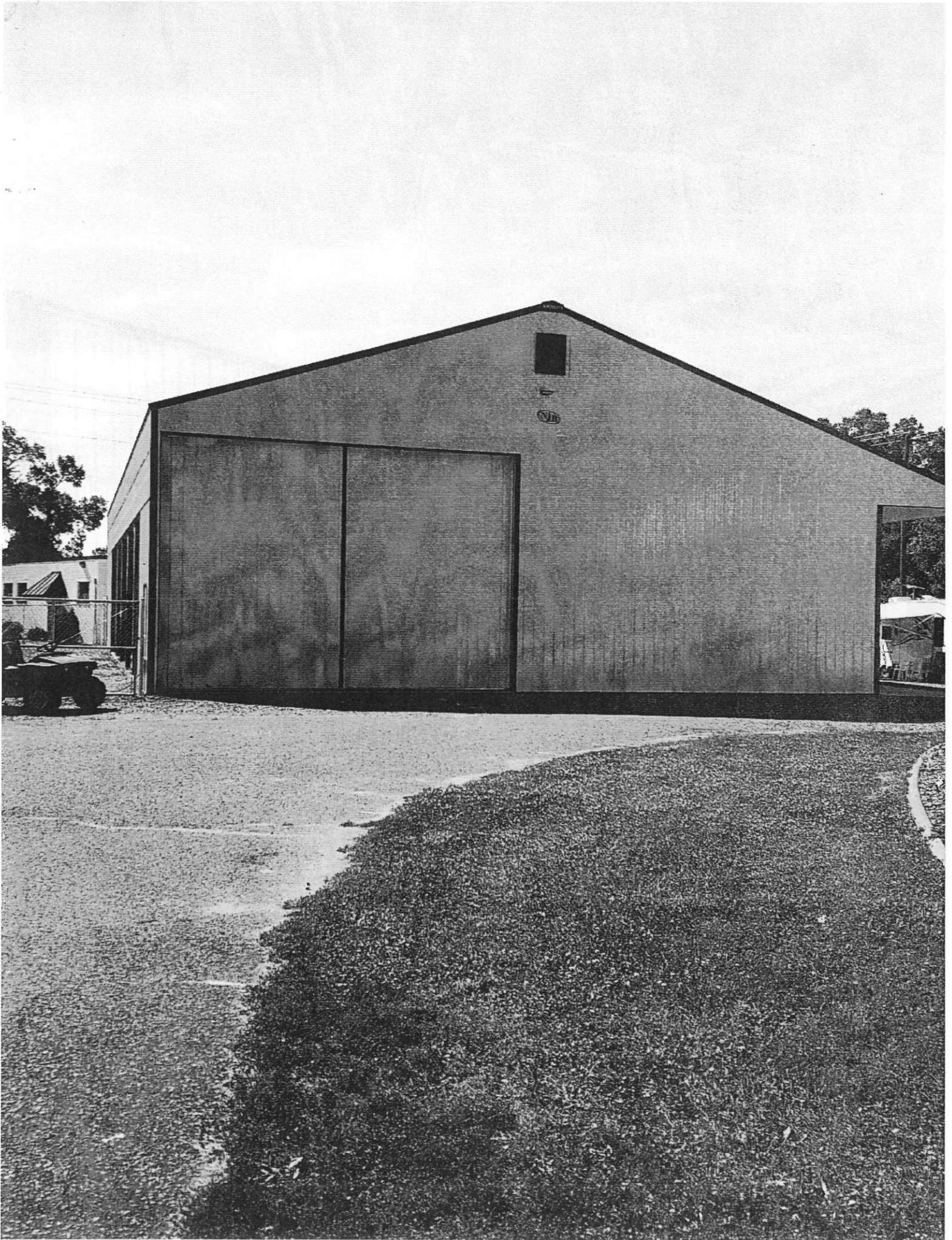
P.O. Box 8952 • Madison, WI 53708-8952  
Rep.Bernier@legis.wi.gov

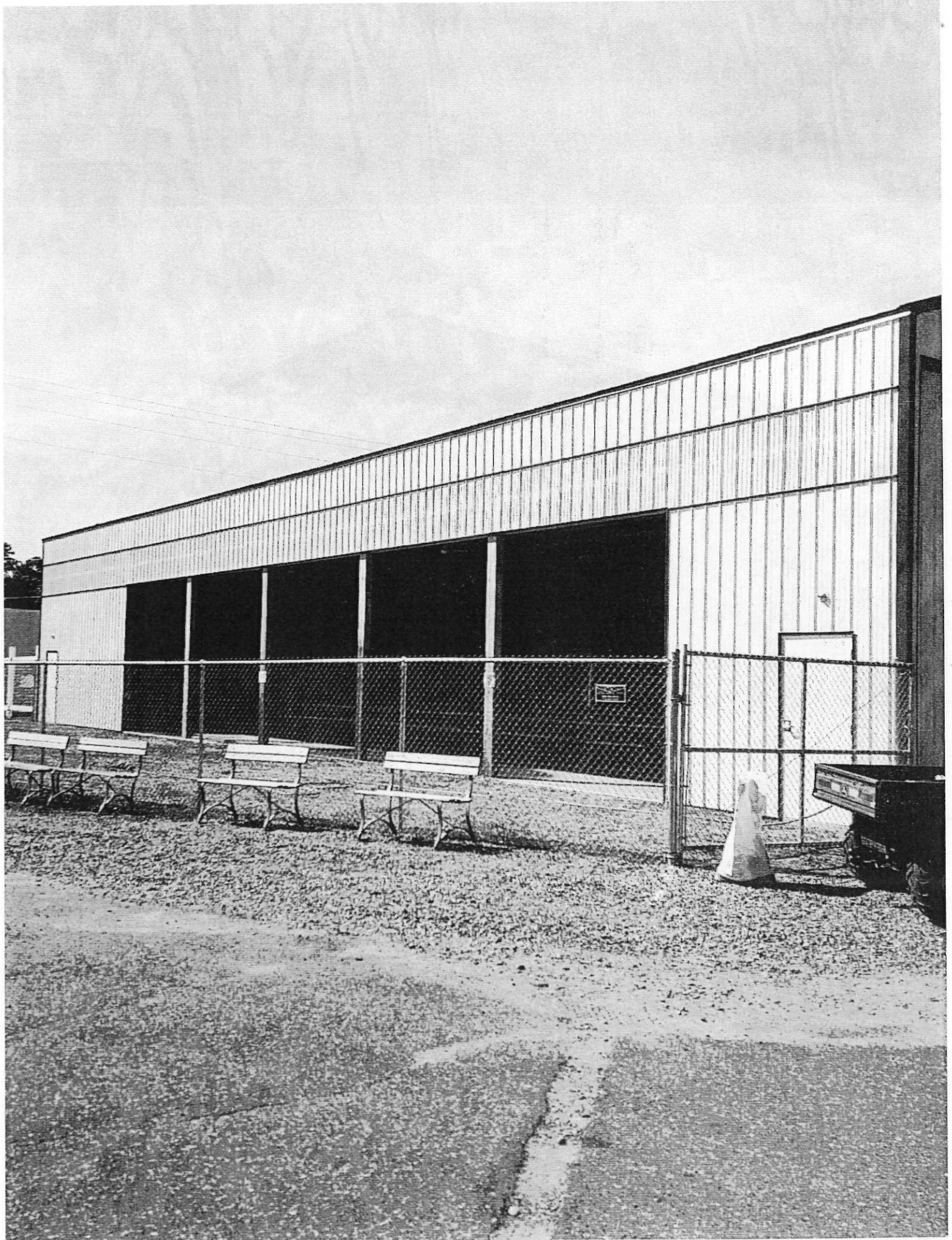
After discussions with the NWSF Director, Rusty Volk, about a possible variance through DSPS, and potential legislation, we became aware of the WI Association of Fairs interest in address this issue for change throughout the state allowing for a similar structures accommodating storage needs and public space while maintaining safety and complying with DSPS standards.

Senate Bill 478 accommodates the needs of the Northern Wisconsin State Fair, the WI Association of Fairs, and the general public by providing changes to the facility structural requirements for storage and public use in seasonal and temporary use buildings.

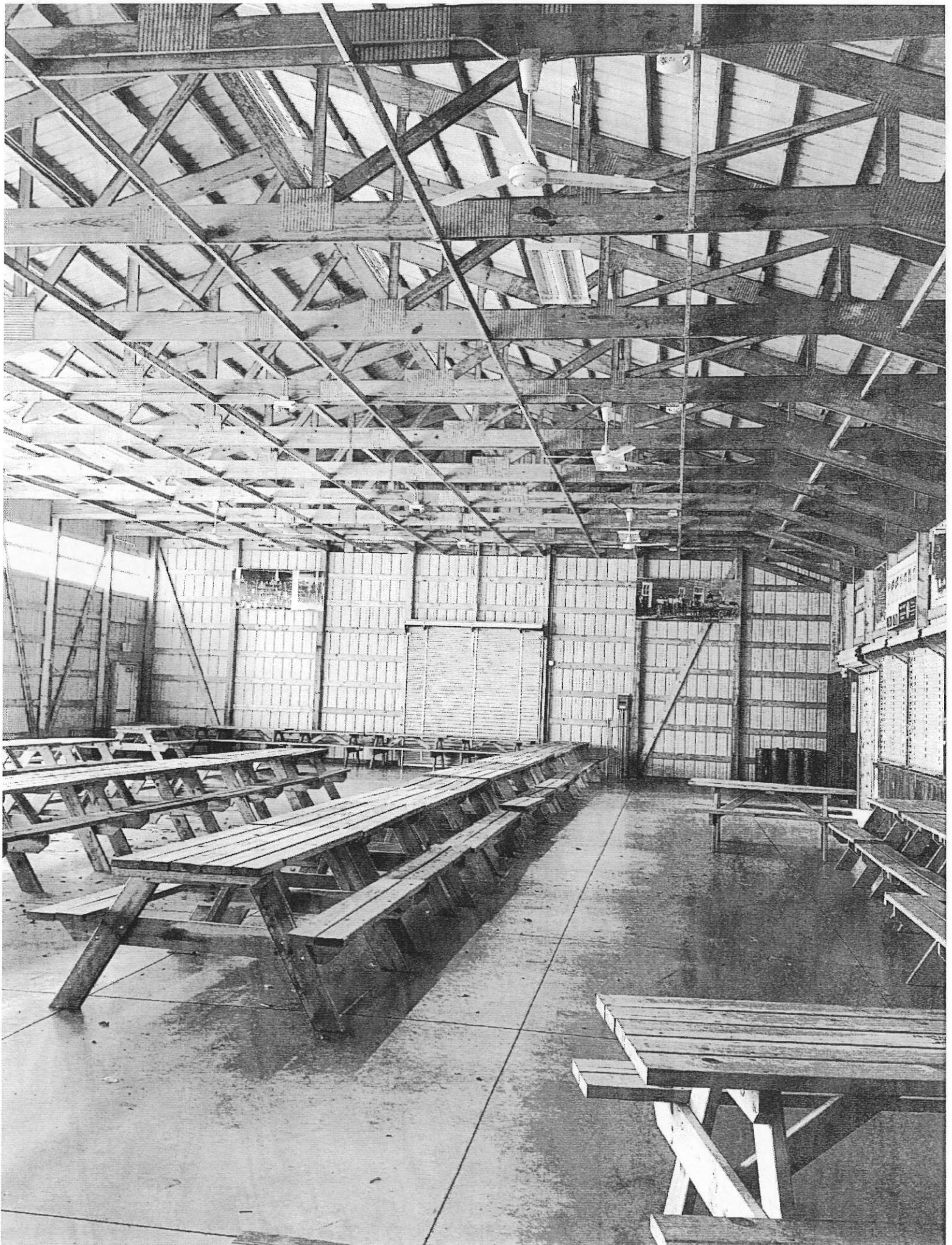
Thank you for your time and attention to AB 478. I'm happy to answer any questions I can.





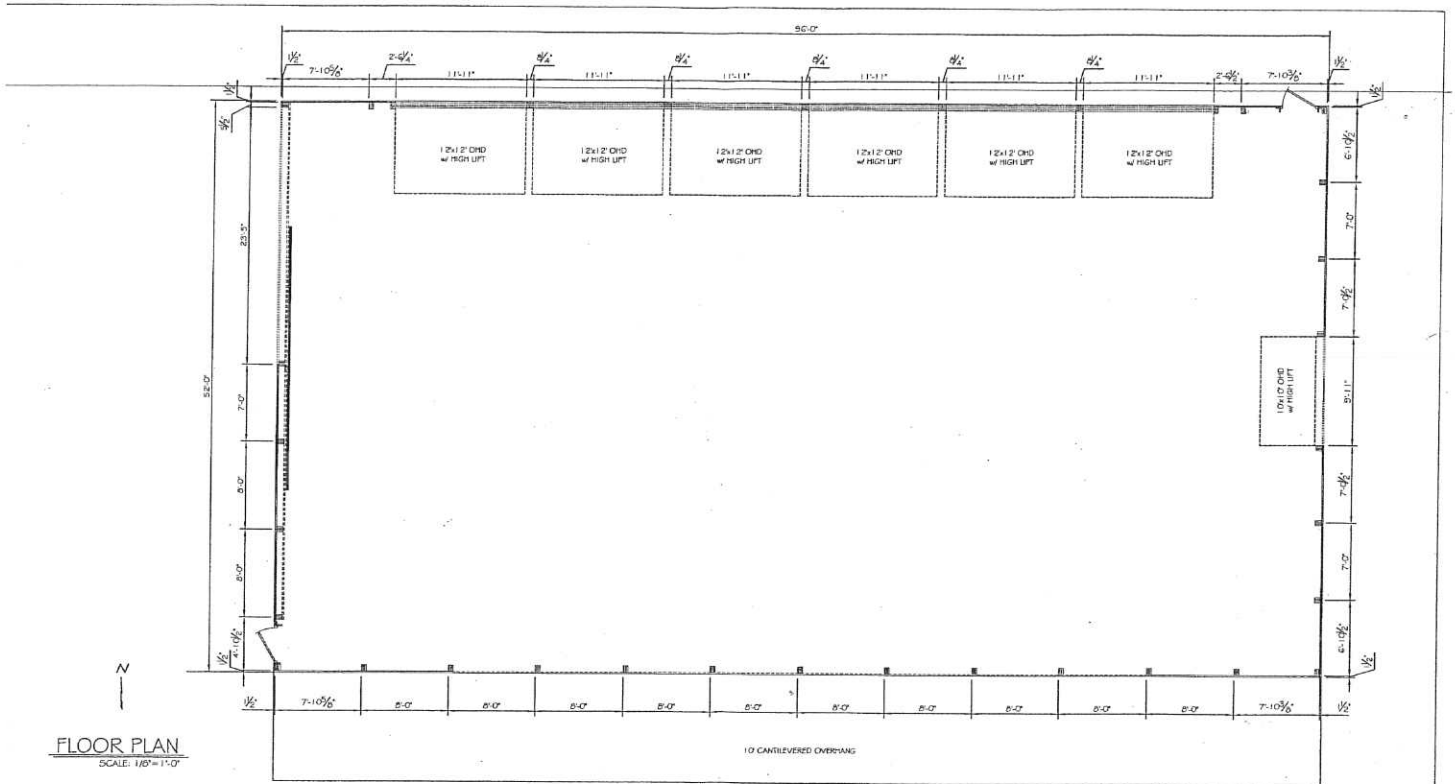












FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

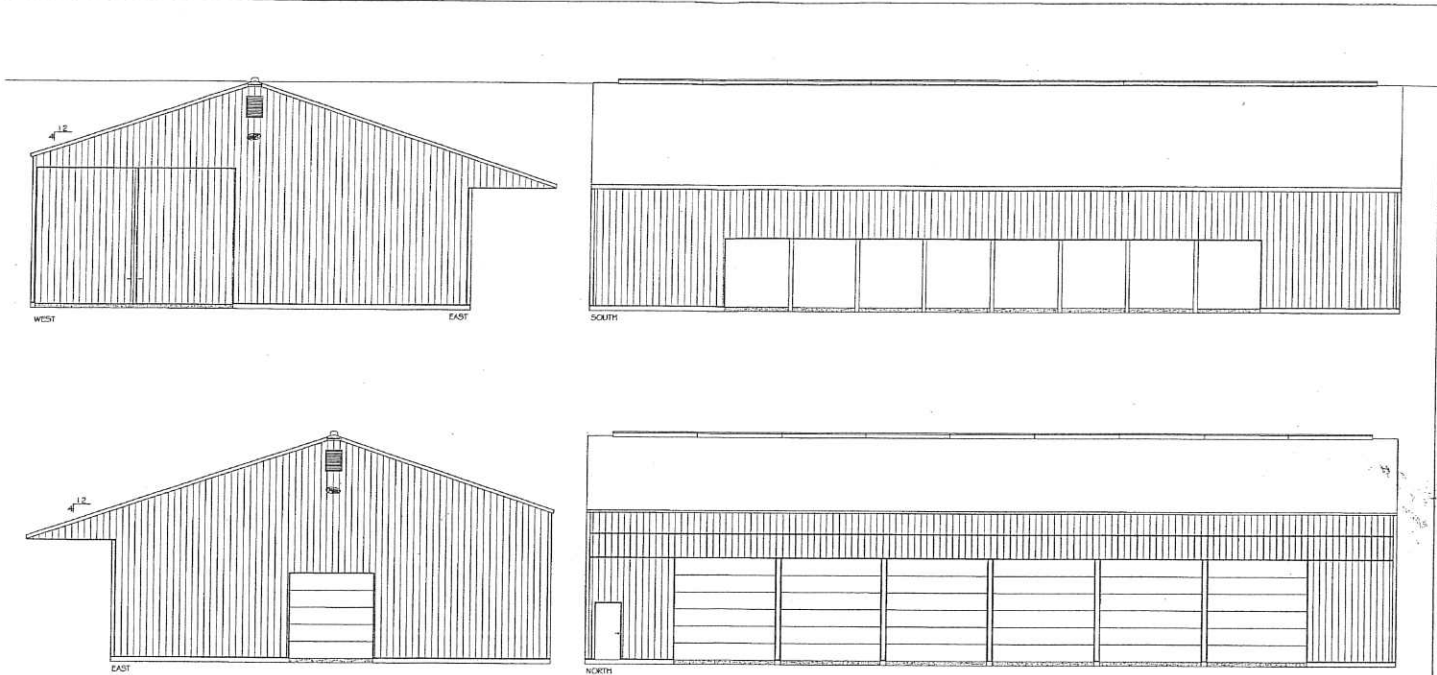


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PROJECT TITLE  
**NORTHERN WI STATE FAIRGROUNDS**  
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 52' x 104' x 16'-6"  
FILE NAME:  
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REVISIONS			SCALE	JOB NO.
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				1 of 3





ELEVATIONS



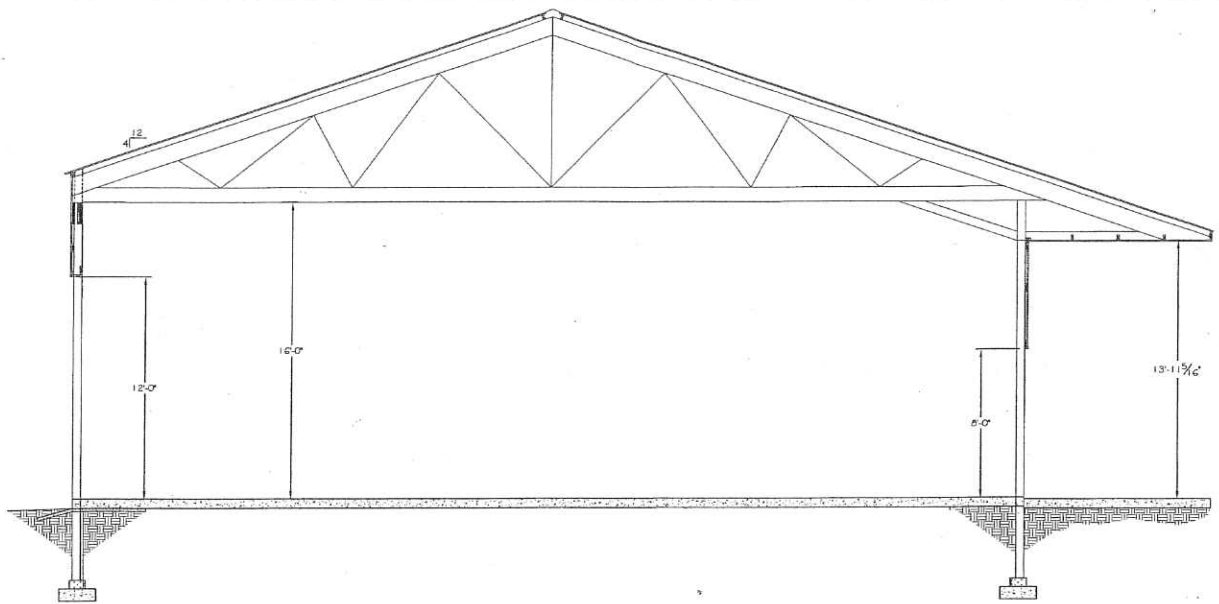
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BUILDING SECTION



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