



State Senator Sheila Harsdorf

Date: January 6, 2016
To: Senate Committee on Agriculture, Small Business, and Tourism
Fr: Senator Sheila Harsdorf
Re: Senate Bill 318 – Local Fair Regulation Reform

Chairman Moulton and Committee Members,

Thank you for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 318 (SB 318), which Representative Ripp and I have introduced at the request of the Wisconsin Fairs Association and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. SB 318 would bring fair statutes into modern times by deleting obsolete sections of the law and updating other sections. Given that horse racing no longer exists at local fairs, the bill also eliminates certain requirements and references relating to horse racing at local fairs.

Specifically, the bill would:

- Eliminate provisions related to prizes won in harness races, the types of horses eligible for harness racing, the number of entries, and the amount of fees that may be charged.
- The bill would give authority for policing of fairgrounds to county agricultural societies operating a fair. The bill would remove obsolete references to WI DATCP, the Northern Wisconsin state fair, or an industrial society from having policing jurisdiction of fairgrounds.
- The bill would remove the requirement that the Department of Administration audit the financial reports of an entity operating a local fair before providing state aid to the entity for that fair. DATCP currently does this audit and will continue to do so under this bill.

SB 318 would clean up statutes and make the law regarding local fairs match the way fairs are administered today.

I urge your support for SB 318. I would welcome any questions you may have. Thank you again for holding a public hearing and for your consideration.