



## **Senate Industry and Business Committee**

### **Testimony to oppose SB 2347**

Chairman Larsen and Members of the Committee, my name is Mike Krumwiede appearing on behalf of the ND Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in opposition of HB 2347. The ND Chapter of the American Institute of Architects is a nonprofit, voluntary, self-governing organization which represents 220 member Architects in ND.

The concerns AIA has about HB 2347 are generally universal to all of the threshold bills that have come before the Legislative Assembly over the past several biennia. The primary concern is that the issue of thresholds as a requirement for project bidding and thresholds as they relate to a requirement of utilizing licensed design professionals have historically been tied together, and they should not be.

Raising the limit to \$1,000,000 would not require a State agency to engage a design professional to assist in the preparation of documents and construction oversight. The Architects responsibility is to protect the safety and welfare of the general public in the structures they occupy or visit. Architects and Engineers are immersed in the building code during design to provide a building that is designed for the safety of its occupants. Although there may be several competent contractors with a design staff to perform projects for less than \$1,000,000, there are countless more in the State that may not be as capable.

Thresholds related to project bidding for construction should be established by striking a balance between agility of agencies to procure services and being fiscally responsible, while giving the contracting industry an opportunity to bid projects in an open, fair and consistent manner. However, thresholds related to requirements for utilizing licensed design professionals should be established with appropriate deliberation given to the impact to public safety.

Pre Engineered Manufactured Buildings are great solutions for big spaces or when economics is important. They are also great because they lend themselves to a

variety of flexible use solutions. They are not just reserved for shops and warehouses. Although we would argue that shops and warehouses can be extremely hazardous uses that can require sophisticated life safety analysis.

Below are some specific examples of a PEMB that a building official may not want to take on the responsibility for determining life safety requirements for any of these structures.

Capital Ice Complex: Wachter Arena

Completion Date: December 2018

32,000 SF

Fixed Seating for 500

Standing Room for 100

VFW Sports Center: First International Bank and Trust Arena

Completion Date: November 2023

27,000 SF

Fixed Seating for 250

Standing Room for 100

Oberon Public Schools – Elementary School

Completion Date: August 2020

20,000 SF

7 classrooms school with gymnasium

For these reasons we would ask for a Do Not Pass recommendation on Senate Bill 2347.