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Committees Branch
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba
Room 251, 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8
Via email: committees@leg.gov.mb.ca

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), which represents Manitoba's 137 municipalities, I am writing to provide some comments regarding Bill 53: *The Municipal Statutes Amendment Act (2)*.

As municipalities have remained on the frontlines delivering essential services throughout the entirety of the COVID-19 pandemic, local Councils have been responding to additional fiscal pressures and challenges impacting their communities. Since the pandemic has also identified opportunities to adopt new measures reflective of current realities, the AMM supports many of the proposed changes as outlined in Bill 53, including those that modernize current provisions related to public hearings and notices. The pandemic has certainly made it challenging for local Councils to meet physically with residents, so options that allow flexibility and provide municipalities the opportunity to better connect and share information with their residents is appreciated. Amendments allowing virtual sittings of the Municipal Board are also welcomed given delays in scheduling hearings experienced by our members.

Additionally, the AMM welcomes the proposed changes that enable local Councils to more effectively address violations of municipal Codes of Conduct under *Bill 2: The Municipal Amendment Act (Strengthening Codes of Conduct for Council Members)*. The AMM takes the issues that were brought forward by our members that prompted this legislation very seriously, and thus we appreciate amendments that maintain Council autonomy and enable local officials to address Code of Conduct violations should they arise.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these brief comments.

Sincerely,

Denys Volkov
Executive Director

cc: Minister Johnson, Manitoba Municipal Relations

