

Sent via email: schicp@ola.org

August 26, 2022

Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton – Kawartha Lakes
Chair, Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy
c/o Isaiah Thorning, Committee Clerk
99 Wellesley Street West, Room 1405, Whitney Block
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A2

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Re: Bill 3, *The Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act*, 2022

Thank you for inviting me to attend the meeting of the Committee on August 29, 2022, on behalf of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. I look forward to providing remarks and to participating in the Committee's deliberations on Bill 3.

Municipalities in every part of Ontario are committed to the province's growth and prosperity. They are eager to play their important role in increasing the supply of housing, improving housing affordability, and creating the sustainable, vibrant, accessible, and diverse communities that are the foundation of Ontario's social, environmental, and economic well being.

When AMO's Board met recently, it took the opportunity to discuss Bill 3. Given limited information on the views of AMO's member municipal councils, and without the opportunity to review research or expert opinion, the AMO Board was not in a position to gauge support for the Bill 3 provisions or to evaluate its merits. Consequently, the AMO Board does not have a position on Bill 3, in general.

However, the AMO Board's discussion concluded with consensus on the following matters to be conveyed as advice to the Committee.

First, as the government considers how it may expand the new provisions in the *Municipal Act* to include additional municipalities, it must engage in broad consultation with the public and with both professional and political municipal organizations, including AMO.

Second, the AMO Board has taken note of the strong concerns expressed by municipal public administrators regarding the proposed provisions in the *Municipal Act* that would allow a Mayor to unilaterally hire and fire a Chief Administrative Officer, and it urges this Committee to give careful consideration to those concerns as it proceeds.

Third, and finally, the AMO Board finds that the proposed changes to the *Municipal Act* which would allow a Mayor to unilaterally hire and fire department heads, and to reorganize the municipality's public administration, are at odds with established good practices of both private and public sector governance and administration and should be removed from the Bill.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Rosborough', with a stylized, flowing script.

Brian Rosborough
Executive Director
Association of Municipalities of Ontario