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March 21, 2023

**RE: The Animal Care Amendment Act (Bill 31)**

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is Manitoba's general farm policy organization, providing a unified voice for farmers on issues that affect agriculture. KAP represents and promotes the interests of over 4,400 farmer and 19 commodity association members.

Manitoba producers across the province raise and care for a variety of different animals including dairy cows, hogs, chickens, turkeys, sheep, goats, elk, bison, horses and beef cows. In 2021 there were over 5,500 producers involved in animal husbandry.

*The Animal Care Act* is key legislation that ensures that farm animals are provided with an acceptable level of care. Manitoba producers strive to ensure their farm animals are treated humanely and that their farm practices are in accordance with *The Animal Care Act*.

The appeal mechanism within *The Animal Care Act* is a key component of the in ensuring that respondents can reply to actions taken under the *Act*. KAP believes that Bill 31 would create efficiencies within the *Act*, promote timeliness and provide more flexibility on how hearings are held. The option of conducting hearings virtually provides convenience for all parties involved.

Additionally, the amendment for the appeal board to reject frivolous and vexatious claims would serve two purposes, the first being to align *The Animal Care Act* with other Acts such as the Workplace Safety and Health Act. It may also reduce the number of unrelated matters brought to the appeal board allowing the board to focus on more pertinent matters.

Keystone Agricultural Producers is pleased to support the amendments made in Bill 31 and looks forward to its swift passage this legislative session. Modernization of *The Animal Care Act* is an important step in ensuring the *Act* remains efficient and meets the needs of all parties involved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jill Verwey'.

Jill Verwey  
President, Keystone Agricultural Producers Inc.