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State Senator Kent Eken receives CGMC Legislator of Distinction Award

ST. PAUL—State Sen. Kent Eken was recognized by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) Aug. 3 during the Coalition’s three-day summer conference in Fergus Falls for his positive impact on the state’s environmental policy.

Sen. Eken, a Democrat from Twin Valley, is serving his second term in the Minnesota Senate after serving five terms in the House. The Legislator of Distinction Award is given to legislators who played key roles in advancing CGMC’s policy during the preceding session.

During the 2017 legislative session, Sen. Eken was a key player in the CGMC’s efforts to pursue environmental regulatory reform to strengthen the peer-review process to ensure that new water quality regulations are based on sound science and cost-effective. He frequently worked across the aisle in support of the CGMC’s environmental initiatives and was particularly helpful in the Coalition’s attempts to work with the Governor’s Office and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to broker an agreement on regulatory reforms.

“Sen. Eken is a smart and pragmatic legislator who always puts the needs of his constituents first,” said Sara Carlson, mayor of Alexandria and president of the CGMC. “Even though his party is in the minority, he took a leadership role and helped garner bipartisan support for common-sense regulatory reform.”

CGMC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization representing 90 cities outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Coalition educates legislators about issues important to Greater Minnesota.

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