



**Dedicated to a Strong Greater Minnesota**

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## **State Sen. Erik Simonson receives CGMC Legislator of Distinction Award**

ST. PAUL—State Sen. Erik Simonson 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 tax policy.

Sen. Simonson, a Democrat from Duluth, is serving his first term in the Minnesota Senate after serving two 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.

Sen. Simonson is being recognized for his ardent support for the Local Government Aid (LGA) program, which is vital to keeping Minnesota’s cities strong. During the 2017 legislative session, he led efforts to add an amendment to the tax bill that would have increased LGA funding by \$45.5 million, the amount needed to bring program funding back up to its 2002 high-water mark. Although the amendment was not adopted, Sen. Simonson proved that he is willing to fight for the needs of Greater Minnesota communities.

“As both a state legislator and in his other job as an assistant fire chief in the city of Duluth, Sen. Simonson truly understands the importance of Local Government Aid,” said Sara Carlson, mayor of Alexandria and president of the CGMC. “He is always willing to defend the LGA program and continues to fight to strengthen it.”

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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