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For Immediate Release
Aug. 7, 2017

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State Rep. Chris Swedzinski receives CGMC Legislator of Distinction Award

ST. PAUL—State Rep. Chris Swedzinski 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.

Rep. Swedzinski, a Republican from Ghent, is serving his fourth term in the Minnesota House. The Legislator of Distinction Award is given to legislators who played key roles in advancing CGMC’s policy during the preceding session.

As a member of the House Environment Finance Committee and the joint House/Senate conference committee on the omnibus environment bill, Rep. Swedzinski was a consistently strong advocate for the CGMC’s environmental initiatives during the 2017 legislative session. Most notably, he was the chief author of key legislation that was signed into law this year that allows cities more time to review permits and comment on the Impaired Waters List.

“Rep. Swedzinski took on a leadership role this session and worked hard to pursue important reforms in Minnesota’s environmental regulatory process,” said Sara Carlson, mayor of Alexandria and president of the CGMC. “Thanks to his efforts, all cities — particularly smaller cities with fewer staff members and less frequent council meetings — will benefit from having extra time to review and comment on new permits.”

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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