Bemidji City Councilor Ron Johnson elected CGMC President

ST. PAUL—Bemidji City Councilor Ron Johnson was elected to serve as president of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) July 27 at the Coalition’s three-day summer conference in Mankato. As president, Johnson will help direct efforts to inform state legislators on issues unique to Greater Minnesota, such as Local Government Aid (LGA), economic development, transportation and environmental policy.

Johnson was elected by fellow mayors and city officials from across the state to lead the CGMC, long considered one of the most active, high-profile organizations to represent rural communities at the State Capitol.

“Ron is passionate about ensuring that Greater Minnesota communities continue to be a great place to live, work and raise a family,” said Bradley Peterson, executive director of the CGMC. “He has been an active member of the CGMC Board of Directors for many years and is a fixture at our lobby days, conferences and other events. With his knowledge and experience, I’m confident that he will be a strong leader for our organization.”

Granite Falls Mayor Dave Smiglewski, whom Johnson is replacing as president, echoed Peterson’s comments.

“I have gotten to know Ron well over the years and I’m impressed with his ability to advocate for important issues such as LGA, city-street funding and economic development needs,” Smiglewski said. “With a new governor and Legislature waiting in the wings, we will certainly have a lot of work to do this upcoming year. The Coalition is fortunate to have Ron leading the way.”

CGMC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization representing 97 cities outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Coalition educates legislators about issues important to Greater Minnesota.

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