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Bemidji City Councilor Ron Johnson receives President's Award from CGMC

ST. PAUL—Bemidji City Councilor Ron Johnson received the President's Award from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) July 25 during the Coalition's three-day summer conference in Bemidji. The award marks the culmination of Johnson's tenure as president of the CGMC.

As CGMC president, Johnson led a successful push for a \$30 million increase in Local Government Aid (LGA), an amount which will finally bring the program back up to its 2002 high-water mark. He was also a vocal and effective advocate for the CGMC's other legislative priorities such as clean water infrastructure, economic development programs, funding for city streets and highway projects in Greater Minnesota, and exploring solutions to the child care shortage. During his year-long term as president, Johnson led the CGMC's "lobby days" at the State Capitol and other events, and served as the organization's main spokesperson through numerous guest columns and interviews with state and local media. He has also been active in efforts to recruit new members to the CGMC and improve the day-to-day operations of the organization.

"Ron's commitment to his city and Greater Minnesota is remarkable," said Bradley Peterson, executive director of the CGMC. "He has only missed two events in nearly 20 years of involvement with the CGMC, which just shows his passion for helping to advance the issues that are important to Greater Minnesota cities. He brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role of president, and his steady guidance was a key to achieving success on LGA and other critical issues this year."

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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