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State Rep. Dave Lislegard receives CGMC's First-Term Legislator of the Year Award

ST. PAUL—Rep. Dave Lislegard received the First-Term Legislator of the Year Award from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) July 25 during the Coalition's three-day summer conference in Bemidji. The award recognizes a first-term legislator who has gone above and beyond in his or her advocacy on behalf of Greater Minnesota.

Rep. Lislegard, a Democrat from Aurora, is a former mayor who brought his experience in local government and knowledge of rural issues to the Legislature. This session, he played a pivotal role in the passage of a \$30 million increase in Local Government Aid (LGA), which was the CGMC's top legislative goal for the session. He served as chief House author of the original bill to increase LGA funding and was a passionate leader on the proposal throughout committee hearings and within his caucus. He also served on the Tax Conference Committee, a rare opportunity for a freshman lawmaker, where he continued to advocate for LGA and other local government issues.

"Rep. Lislegard came to St. Paul ready to roll up his sleeves and get to work on the issues that are important to Greater Minnesota communities," said Ron Johnson, a member of the Bemidji City Council and president of the CGMC. "He was a bulldog when it came to fighting for more LGA funding. His leadership is a key reason why we were able to achieve our top goal of a \$30 million increase this session."

"Working alongside local leaders from across the state, I'm extremely proud of what we were able to accomplish this session to strengthen the way of life in our Greater Minnesota communities," Rep. Lislegard said. "As a former mayor and councilmember, I'm deeply familiar with both the challenges our cities face, as well as the opportunities available when we work together. I'm honored to receive this award and I look forward to building upon these partnerships in the future."

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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