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State Sen. Tom Bakk receives CGMC Legislator of Distinction Award

ST. PAUL—State Sen. Tom Bakk was recognized by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) July 25 during the Coalition’s three-day summer conference in Bemidji for his positive impact on the state’s tax policy.

Sen. Bakk, a Democrat from Cook, is serving his fifth term in the Minnesota Senate and previously served four terms 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 legislative session.

Sen. Bakk, who currently serves as Senate minority leader, is a long-time champion of rural communities. This session, he was one of the leaders in the push for an increase in funding for the Local Government Aid (LGA) program, which helps cities of all sizes be able to pay for key city services and amenities regardless of their tax base. Throughout his time in office, and especially during the most recent legislative session, Sen. Bakk has consistently supported LGA and encouraged his colleagues in the Senate to make it a priority. His efforts helped lead to the passage of a \$30 million LGA increase in the 2019 tax bill.

“As the legislative session progressed, Sen. Bakk worked hard both in front of and behind the scenes to make sure LGA stayed at the top of the radar screen,” said Ron Johnson, a member of the Bemidji City Council and president of the CGMC. “We are grateful for his continued support of LGA and leadership on behalf of Greater Minnesota communities.”

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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