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State Senator Carrie Ruud receives CGMC Legislator of Distinction Award

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

Sen. Ruud, a Republican from Breezy Point, is serving her third term in the Minnesota Senate. The Legislator of Distinction Award is given to legislators who played key roles in advancing CGMC’s policy during the preceding legislative session.

This year, Sen. Ruud played a pivotal role in finding a solution to unlock funding for clean water infrastructure grant and loan programs that had been in limbo for months despite being included in the 2018 bonding bill. She helped broker an agreement that resulted in the Legislature passing a bill to re-categorize the bonds so that several Greater Minnesota cities could receive the state funding needed to make critical improvements to their wastewater treatment facilities.

As chair of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee, Sen. Ruud also helped pass legislation that requires independent peer review of water-quality regulations, which had long been a goal of the CGMC.

“Sen. Ruud has proven to be a strong and pragmatic leader on Greater Minnesota issues,” said Ron Johnson, a member of the Bemidji City Council and president of the CGMC. “She works hard both within her party and across the aisle to find solutions to the environmental challenges that rural communities are facing.”

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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