COALITION OF GREATER MN CITIES

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Ely City Councilor Heidi Omerza receives Excellence in Service Award from CGMC

ST. PAUL—Ely City Councilor Heidi Omerza was recognized by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) July 29 during the Coalition's summer conference in Alexandria for her excellence in service to Greater Minnesota.

The Excellence in Service Award is given annually to city leaders who demonstrate knowledge, leadership and active participation in CGMC program areas over the past year.

As a member of the CGMC Board of Directors and co-chair of the Local Government Aid/Property Taxes Committee, Omerza has long been a go-to leader for the CGMC. For the past two years, she has also served as president of the Greater Minnesota Partnership, the CGMC's partner organization that focuses on economic development issues. In that role, Omerza has been an outspoken champion for Greater Minnesota on a variety of issues including child care, broadband expansion and housing. This winter, she joined Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian to pen a guest column highlighting the need for more child care options in Greater Minnesota and the critical role child care plays in keeping our state's economy strong. The column was published in more than a dozen media outlets across the state and helped bring needed attention to this important issue.

"City leaders like Heidi are critical to the success of our organization," said Greg Zylka, mayor of Little Falls and president of the CGMC. "She is extremely knowledgeable about the issues that impact our communities and works hard to make sure Greater Minnesota's unique needs are addressed at the Legislature. Whether it is meeting with legislators, writing commentaries or rallying other city leaders to join the fight, Heidi is always willing to roll up her sleeves and work hard to advance our goals."

CGMC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization representing more than 100 cities outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Coalition educates legislators about issues important to Greater Minnesota.

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