COALITION OF GREATER MN CITIES

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For Immediate Release
Aug. 2, 2021

Contact: Julie Liew
jliew@flaherty-hood.com
651-259-1917

Sen. Gene Dornink receives CGMC Legislator of Distinction Award

ST. PAUL—State Sen. Gene Dornink was recognized by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) July 29 during the Coalition's summer conference in Alexandria for his positive impact on environmental issues in Greater Minnesota.

Sen. Dornink, a Republican from Hayfield, is serving his first 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.

As a newly elected legislator, Sen. Dornink emerged as a leader in the push for additional state funding for municipal water facilities. This session, he was the chief Senate author of a bill to provide $100 million in state bonding funds to the Public Facilities Authority to support its wastewater and drinking water infrastructure grant and loan programs. As communities across the state brace for the need to perform expensive repairs and upgrades to their facilities, funding through state grants and loans is vital to ensuring that cities can continue to provide clean water without having to impose massive rate increases on local residents and businesses. Although the Legislature did not pass a bonding bill this year, Sen. Dornink's advocacy helps set the stage for a strong investment in water infrastructure in 2022.

"Despite being new to the Legislature, Sen. Dornink quickly recognized the importance of state support for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure," said Greg Zylka, mayor of Little Falls and president of the CGMC. "He has been very engaged with local leaders on this issue and is active in trying to help not just communities in his district, but communities all across the state."

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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