COALITION OF GREATER MN CITIES

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Sen. Jeff Howe receives CGMC Legislator of Distinction Award

ST. PAUL—State Sen. Jeff Howe 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 the state's transportation policy.

Sen. Howe, a Republican from Rockville, is serving his second term in the Minnesota Senate after previously serving three 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.

As a member of Senate Transportation Committee, Sen. Howe is a leading advocate for finding ways to help small cities repair and replace their deteriorating streets, an issue that has long been a priority for the CGMC. Under current law, cities with populations under 5,000 do not receive any dedicated street funding from the state. This session, Sen. Howe introduced legislation aimed at creating a consistent, ongoing source of state funding for small-city streets. Although that long-term plan did not pass this year, his efforts helped secure $18 million for small-city streets in 2022.

"Sen. Howe is the leading voice in the Senate when it comes to calling for dedicated state funding for street improvements," said Greg Zylka, mayor of Little Falls and president of the CGMC. "Without funding from the state, smaller communities often struggle to pay for street maintenance and repairs. Sen. Howe understands the plight of these communities and looks for creative ways to meet their needs."

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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