COALITION OF GREATER MN CITIES

DEDICATED TO A STRONG GREATER MINNESOTA

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Former State Sen. Dan Sparks receives CGMC Legacy Award

ST. PAUL— Former State Sen. Dan Sparks was honored with the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities' (CGMC) Legacy Award on July 29 during the Coalition's summer conference in Alexandria. The Legacy Award is given upon retirement to legislators who had a particularly positive impact on Greater Minnesota cities during their legislative careers.

Sparks, a Democrat from Austin, served five terms in the Minnesota Senate from 2003 to January 2021. Throughout his nearly two decades in the Legislature, Sparks was a consistent supporter of the CGMC and rural communities. He authored or co-authored several pieces of legislation related to CGMC priorities such as Local Government Aid, housing and economic development, successfully securing state funding for new and existing programs that have helped strengthen Greater Minnesota communities and businesses. He listened closely to city leaders and was always open and receptive to exploring creative solutions to the issues facing Greater Minnesota cities.

"Sen. Sparks was a go-to advocate for Greater Minnesota," said Greg Zylka, mayor of Little Falls and president of the CGMC. "Whenever we asked him to sign on to legislation or help secure a hearing, he was always eager and willing to help. We're grateful for his years of hard work and legislative service on behalf of his district and all rural communities."

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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