



Dedicated to a Strong Greater Minnesota

February 10, 2010

Representative Paul Gardner
581 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Representative Gardner,

We write to you on behalf of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC). The Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (“CGMC”) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization comprised of 76 cities located outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Our mission is to develop viable communities for businesses and families through strong economic growth and good local government. We support sensible environmental regulation to meet that goal. We are writing to inform you that the CGMC supports H.F. 1217.

The CGMC believes in the importance of environmental stewardship. Too often, however, when a new pollutant is discovered, responsibility for addressing the pollutant is placed on municipalities. The CGMC believes that addressing pollutants, such as prescription drugs, before they reach the waste stream and involving the manufacturer or wholesaler of those pollutants in the disposal process is a more fair and equitable solution that also serves to protect the environment. In November 2009, the CGMC membership adopted a policy position on this issue which reads as follows:

Problem materials entering municipal waste streams can cause detrimental environmental effects and damage to municipal treatment and other water systems. CGMC supports legislation and regulations that place responsibility for these materials with the manufacturers and consumers of these products, not just at the treatment and infrastructure maintenance levels.

The CGMC believes that H.F. 1217 is an important step forward in addressing problem materials entering municipal waste streams and supports the passage of this legislation. Please feel free to share this letter with the committees that are examining this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Strand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "S".

Mayor Timothy Strand, St. Peter
CGMC President

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Heidi K Omerza". The signature is cursive and written in a light purple color.

Councilwoman Heidi Omerza, Ely
Co-Chair CGMC Environment and Energy Committee