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March 20, 2020

Governor Mike Parson  
201 W Capitol Ave  
Jefferson City, Mo 65101

Dear Governor Parson:

On behalf of the Missouri golf industry and the nearly 300 golf courses in our state with over 30,000 employees we stand ready to do our part. As local communities, states and the nation continue to respond to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, we recognize the difficult task the Governor's office has in simultaneously keeping the economy going and keeping our citizens safe.

As your office continues to respond to the evolving situation, we understand that strongly recommended or mandatory closures of gathering places (such as restaurants, bars, gyms, etc.) may be among the necessary preventative measures. We will certainly do our part, but we also want to be sure there is an understanding of the unique nature of the golf course business.

The clubhouse, pro shop and/or restaurant operation is just one small part of the footprint of a golf course. We believe the fields of play, which typically represent over 200 acres of open space should be treated differently. The opportunity for socially distant recreation on a golf course is much like taking a walk through one of our wonderful state parks. Golf course operators all over America have been taking extra precautions to ensure playing 9 or 18 holes of golf is a safe experience while still complying with all health advisories and recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control. They are adjusting the food and beverage operations to comply with all suggested and mandated restrictions, such as limiting all business to take-out food service.

If there is to be a mandate to close businesses around the state to avoid the gathering of people and the interaction with surfaces, we respectfully point you to the State of Michigan, where Governor Whitmer recently mandated the closure of many types of businesses, but allowed golf courses to keep the fields of play open. In that light, we ask that you similarly do not include the fields of play per se in any such mandates. If there were to be a mandate, we would certainly understand and respect it, but it would be

extremely essential for us to be able to provide some basic care for our golf courses (mowing, fertilizing, etc.). Without this care, the potential for desiccation during this time of year is significant and the results could be catastrophic, potentially causing our turf conditions to become compromised and ultimately causing unnecessary loss of jobs for thousands of people in an industry vital to our State's economy. Respectfully, we would ask for the ability to care for their facilities during a potential shutdown, obviously applying and observing all the important social distancing rules.

Thank you for your attention, Governor Parson. We wish you all the best as you exercise judgment and wisdom to both protect and advance our communities.

Respectfully yours,

Scott Hovis,

Executive Director Missouri Golf Association  
Chairman of the Missouri Tourism Commission