March 20, 2020

Governor Mike DeWine
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

Ohio’s $2 billion golf industry is comprised of more than 700 golf courses — mostly small businesses — and employs approximately 68,000 people. We’re writing on their behalf today to ask you to follow the lead of Gov. Whitmer of Michigan and Gov. Inslee of Washington and continue to allow outdoor golf facilities to operate.

Golf is a unique recreational activity because it takes place on open greenspaces of often more than 100 acres, making social distancing easily attainable. Ohio’s golf facilities are already complying with the existing orders pertaining to their inside and food and beverage operations. Courses are also taking precautions to ensure that playing golf outdoors complies with health advisories and recommendations by the CDC. Operators are taking preventative actions including:

- Removing touch points such as bunker rakes, ball washers, water coolers, etc.
- Refitting cups and flagsticks so they don’t need to be touched
- Encouraging walking or only allowing one person per cart
- Sanitizing golf carts after each use

Golf is one of the few great American pastimes we can safely enjoy right now. Allowing facilities to remain open will offer Ohioans — including kids — a place to be outdoors, enjoying nature, exercising and working through a little of the anxiety we’re all feeling right now.

Thank you for your remarkable leadership during these difficult times. We hope we can count on your team’s continued support for golf and recreation.

Respectfully,

Ohio’s Golf Industry

Contact:

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