



March 19, 2020

Governor Kate Brown
900 Court Street, Suite 254
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the golf industry in Oregon and the nearly 200 golf courses in our state, thank you for your leadership during these challenging times. We stand ready to do our part as local communities, states and the nation continue to respond to the recent Coronavirus 2019 Pandemic. 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 preventative measures that businesses will need to take. We will certainly play our part, but we also want to share with you the unique nature of the golf course business.

The clubhouse, golf shop and/or restaurant operation is just a small part of the overall footprint of a golf course. We believe the field of play, which typically represents over 200 acres of open space land per course, 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 the country have been taking extra precautions to ensure playing golf is a safe experience that complies with all health advisories and recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control. Golf facilities are adjusting their food and beverage operations to comply with all suggested and mandated restrictions, such as limiting all business to take-out food service. In addition, the Golf Alliance of Oregon is being proactive with communicating best practices for all Oregon golf operations to help ensure further compliance with CDC regulations (see additional statement included with this letter).

If there is to be a mandate to close businesses around the State of Oregon 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.

We wish you the very best as you exercise judgment and wisdom to both protect and advance our communities.

Respectfully,

Oregon Golf Course Superintendents Association
Oregon Golf Course Owners and Operators Association
Oregon Chapter, PGA Northwest Section, PGA of America
Oregon Chapter of Club Management Association of America
Oregon Golf Association





Cc: Pat Allen, Director, Oregon Health Authority
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