



March 24, 2020

The Honorable Mark Gordon
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
200 West 24th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Governor Gordon:

On behalf of the Wyoming golf industry, we stand ready to do our part as local communities, states and the nation continue to respond to the Novel Coronavirus outbreak. We know that you have and will continue to be called upon to make difficult decisions in response to this crisis and we recognize that public safety is paramount.

The golf industry is recommending that in certain cases when it becomes necessary to close the outdoor golf courses to the public during the pandemic, golf course maintenance must be allowed to proceed during the shutdown. An average golf course of 150 acres is a living ecosystem requiring continued maintenance. Spring is a critical time for turfgrass, and it cannot be neglected for an extended period or it will be lost, and the community will lose a vital asset. Performing required maintenance will deter crime and vandalism that could occur at an unmonitored property. In addition, continued maintenance will also deter pests, such as mosquitoes or ticks, which can quickly multiply in unmanaged areas of land causing a further public health threat.

We are taking all necessary steps to keep maintenance staff safe by considering the health advisories and recommendations by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Practices such as social distancing, staggering staff work hours, mandatory glove wearing and sanitizing of hand tools are just some of the maintenance adjustments that the golf industry is proactively instituting. Golf courses provide many recreational, environmental and economic benefits to the communities they serve, and continuing to maintain them during these unprecedented times will ensure they will be here when the crisis has ended.

Governor Gordon, thank you for your attention to this important matter. We wish you all the best as you exercise judgment and wisdom to both protect and advance our communities.

Respectfully yours,

Handwritten signature of Lori Russell in brown ink.

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