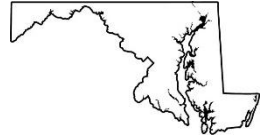


Maryland Golf Council



10455 Falls Road • Lutherville, MD 21093 • Phone: 410-653-5300 x3

April 17, 2020

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor, State of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

On behalf of the Maryland Golf Council, over 200 small business golf facilities, and over 300,000 golfers in Maryland, we stand ready to do our part as local communities, states and the nation continue to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. We know that you have been, and will continue to be, called upon to make difficult decisions in response to this crisis. We recognize that public safety is paramount.

The golf industry would like to be part of the solution as life slowly gets back to normal. **We request that as you choose safe businesses to re-open, that golf be included among those activities that are allowed, like our neighbors in Virginia, Delaware and West Virginia.** The physical activity and mental wellness golf provides can improve the moods and reduce anxiety for many residents in our state.

An open golf course is properly supervised by professional staff who enforce operating protocols. Unsupervised outdoor spaces, such as closed golf courses, require additional resources and policing. Opening Maryland courses means fewer residents crossing state lines to play golf elsewhere. Furthermore, opening courses in due time will put 15,000 Maryland working class industry employees back to work. Running, biking, tennis, and golf are the sports which are most easily adopted to touchless and safe COVID-19 prevention practices.

We are committed to being a resource of information and a clearinghouse of best practices to the small business golf course operators in Maryland. As a proactive measure, the golf industry has developed operating procedures compliant with COVID-19 protocols, like [PARK & PLAY](#), developed by the National Golf Course Owners Association. Additionally, many golf facilities are 501c7s, and are not eligible for small business loans under the CARES Act. Those that are eligible need to be open to spend PPP funds on paychecks. Opening with these precautions will allow courses to bring back jobs and also help with their financial distress.

We want to be part of the solution. Golf courses are providing jobs and physical and mental well-being in a safe environment in 35 states, including many neighboring Maryland. A number of courses have even gone so far as to help on several public health priorities relating to this pandemic by providing food, toilet paper, paper towels and other essentials.

Thank you for your continued leadership and your attention to this important matter during trying times.

Respectfully yours,

Bill Smith
MSGA

Jon Guhl
MAPGA

Mike Bennett
NGCOA MA

Ryan Kraushofer
MAAGCS

Mike Cumberpatch
WMGA & MAGA



PGA
Middle Atlantic Section

