Dear Governor Whitmer –

The Michigan Golf Alliance supports your “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order and leadership for all Michiganders during this time. We recognize that public health is the principal objective for the entire community and that balancing this effort with other economic and social factors is very difficult.

Michigan is a leading state in the golf industry with the fourth-most courses in the country, a passionate community of players, and leading research in turfgrass science. The game of golf itself makes a positive social and environmental impact. It adds value across the land it manages while benefitting the people and communities it touches. Health, wellness and mental wellbeing are intrinsically promoted through our game.

We have heard from many golfers about their desire to play for recreation, exercise and relief. The expanse of natural greenspace at golf courses provides the ability for players to socially distance. Best practices are being adopted throughout the golf industry to encourage healthy participation, minimizing or eliminating touch points and risk. Across the country, courses open to the public as well as private membership clubs are addressing safer operations as developed by several national golf associations.

As our state’s health environment evolves and the important response adapts, please consider the game of golf and best practices for safe play as a possible outlet for exercise, recreation and mental respite as soon as appropriate.

Golf aspires to take a helpful role in our state’s recovery from this pandemic, providing meaningful benefits to those who play and serve.

Again, we recognize and applaud your leadership for all Michigan citizens, and we hope the Michigan Golf Alliance can be a positive resource. We welcome the opportunity to answer questions and provide information if needed.

Sincerely,

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