



Northeastern GCSA

March 20, 2020

Dear Governor Cuomo,

On behalf of the LIGCSA, Met GCSA, Hudson Valley Association, Northeast Superintendents Association and the GCSA of NY — representative of nearly 1,000 golf courses throughout New York State — thank you for your leadership during this challenging, unprecedented time. COVID-19’s effects have been far-reaching across nearly all sectors of life.

In response to your Executive Order issued on March 20, we are writing to respectfully request a waiver for golf course maintenance as an essential business activity. Although golf is a nonessential activity during this national pandemic, the work of critical up-keep on the grounds cannot stop. If we abandon this work, we will jeopardize the vast green space maintained in New York for recreational use and the sport of golf.

Golf course maintenance directly parallels agriculture and spring is the most crucial time of year for our industry due to the abundance of growth and inputs needed for proper maintenance and care. Any halt or delay in golf maintenance now will only accelerate the potential for significant turf loss on golf courses statewide in weeks and months ahead. Additionally, without timely maintenance, these large green spaces can quickly become overrun with weeds and invasive species that can compound illness with large amounts of pollen and weed seed being released into the environment.

Rest assured; our industry is taking aggressive steps within our organizations to stop the transmission of COVID-19. Within the golf course industry, strong policies — such as social distancing, staggered work schedules, etc. — have been implemented within our teams and day-to-day operations. Golf course maintenance, by its nature, is an outdoor activity performed by individuals working on their own, naturally keeping extensive distance from other workers and not interfacing with the general public.

We are all in this together, and the golf course industry stands with your office and New York’s public officials to contain COVID-19. We hope you will honor our request to continue to perform these essential functions within our communities.

We look forward to hearing from you and welcome your office to contact us at any time to discuss our concerns further.

Sincerely,

Brian Benedict
LIGCSA – President

Robert Alonzi
MetGCSA – President

Rick Holfoth
GCSA of NY – President

John Risler
NEGSA – President

Chris Kemble
HVGCSA - President