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DOUG MASTRIANO
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March 25, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Clarification of Golf Courses

Dear Governor Wolf:

I am writing you for clarification on the disposition of golf courses.

Under your emergency order, it's not clear where golf courses are listed as closed. But the following is permitted to continue or conduct that would fall under a golf course being open:

- Emergency repairs - which mean anything, putting health, welfare of individuals at risk as well as a hazard to buildings (such as damaged roof/leaks) and other dangers as determined locally by owners or occupants
- Landscaping - per your revisions to the non-essential list last week
- Eating establishments open for delivery and take out
- Grounds are open for exercise, per CDC guidance on healthy habits for disease prevention, and using social distancing, per discretion of the owners

The determination of business closure should be based upon how great of a health risk does that business or function poses to spreading the virus. I'm calling upon you to re-evaluate their business closures based upon real health risks, not judgments of what is and is not essential.

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Golf Course

Having served in crisis and war zones across the years in the United States Army, that included service along the Iron Curtain, in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm, Bosnia, Kosovo and three tours to Afghanistan, it is essential to provide rational and commonsense decisions as you lead the state. The key question is whether closure of the courses will contain the virus. Assuming that those using it practice the hygiene measures that we constantly are told about, they are far safer than most businesses.

The important consideration regarding your decisions to close certain operations or functions should not be based on whether your staff determines if something is essential, but rather if the continuation of that business or function would spread COVID-19. Since golf course restaurants are closed to in house dining, and the golf courses are comprised of wide open spaces, with little interaction with other people, the risk of the virus spreading here is significantly less than riding on public transit in our large cities, which, despite scientifically measurable evidence that these pose to public health.

The people of Pennsylvania look to you to make wise decisions that are focused on containment of the virus. I, on behalf of the people of both the 33rd District and across the Commonwealth, ask for a measure of commonsense in taking focused action to contain and limit the virus where it poses a real risk. Broad sweeping measures that do nothing other than destroy families and businesses are not what we desire from our governor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Mastriano". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a prominent "D" and "M".

Senator Doug Mastriano
33rd Senate District

cc: Senator Joe Scarnati
Senator Jake Corman