



23 March, 2020

The Honorable Eric Holcomb
200 W Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Governor Holcomb,

The Allied Professional Organizations that represent the “Indiana Green Industry” throughout the State include: The Indiana Professional Lawn and Landscape Association, The Indiana Golf Course Superintendents Association, The Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, The Indiana Sports Turf Managers Association and Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association. Member companies specialize in professional lawn and landscape maintenance, and athletic field and golf course management. These industry professionals work daily throughout the state servicing and maintaining residential and commercial properties, schools, municipalities, stadium fields, golf courses and other businesses to maintain their landscapes, maintain healthy green spaces and preserve and protect the urban environment. The professional activities of these members and the supply chain contribute > \$4.5 billion annually in the State of Indiana. The golf industry alone creates over 21,000 jobs to the Hoosier state and accounts for total wage income of > \$530 million and provides over \$900 million annually in direct revenue to the Indiana economy. The contributions of residential, commercial and municipal landscape property management is much more.

As a nation, we are all struggling to combat the rapid transmission of COVID-19, and we understand and acknowledge that in some instances, steps have been taken, including shutting down businesses deemed as “non-essential”. We are communicating with you today to assure you that the essential services provided by our member professionals are critical and must continue during any emergency declaration or quarantine scenario. Without the efforts of Indiana’s Green Industry conducting these valuable services the health and value of turf and landscape will be compromised. Unlike production agriculture systems (e.g. corn and soybeans) the plants in turf and landscape systems are perennials and rely heavily on proper seasonal maintenance in order to persist and remain healthy. Further, without properly timed intervention to suppress various pests that inhabit the lawn and landscape we may likely see increased instances where people may be become ill or sick, compounding our already stretched medical resources.

For the following reasons, these services provided by these members and their employees should be deemed “essential” and remain critical.

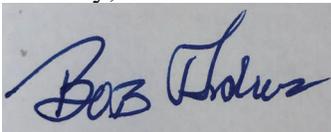
- Healthy green spaces means a healthy environment. Dense healthy, turf areas filter pollutants, like sediment and urban contaminants, which move from hardscape areas like parking lots during and following rainfall. A well maintained turf and landscape area prevents these contaminants from moving directly into surface and drinking water sources.

- Our industry professional are protectors of public health performing essential treatments to lawns and healthy green spaces to reduce the transmission of dangerous and deadly diseases through pests like mosquitoes, ticks and fleas.
- The physical and mental health benefits of healthy turf and landscapes are well documented. Maintained green space and recreational areas (sports fields, golf courses, parks, etc.) provide public opportunities to pursue healthy outdoor activities.
- The Spring months are a critical period for the health of plants that our industry manages. Similar to a farmer planting seeds in the spring for fall harvest, neglecting turf and landscape plants in the spring will cause months or longer to restore to them to full health and functionality. The ramifications for neglected landscapes could cause companies, sports fields and golf courses to be closed for the remainder of 2020 or possibly ceasing operation altogether.
- Lastly, the outdoor management activities necessary are mostly able to be completed by an individual or pairing of individuals to comply with current social distancing recommendations like minimal proximal contact with customers or facility users.

If there is a further mandate to suspend operations in Indiana to avoid the gathering of people and interaction with surfaces we respectfully point you to recent policies from Ohio and Michigan. Governors there mandated closure of many business but allowed for continued operation of “Critical Trades”, which would include the services provided by our industry. Be assured that strong policies are being put in place by each and every company to maintain social distancing with both clients and among the individuals that are working in each operation. In summary, the Green Industry is strong in the state of Indiana, both physically and economically and we are here to help the Hoosier State overcome this crisis and emerge even stronger.

We greatly appreciate your leadership during this crisis, and we are available to assist in any way. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the individual representatives below should you have questions regarding the specific importance of their contributions to the Hoosier State and the health of the Green Industry.

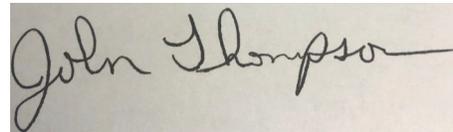
Sincerely,



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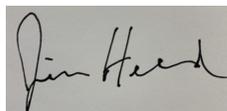
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