

Help Fight the Proposed Tax on Golf!!

The Message

The North Carolina Legislature is considering a Recreational Tax on golf. You can help by contacting your elected officials and letting them know that you oppose this tax! The House and Senate committees tasked with developing the budget are working to resolve a substantial deficit, and we need to make sure they understand the negative consequences to our industry and to the State of North Carolina if this tax is passed. **When you communicate with them, please be sure to mention the following points:**

- Golf is a discretionary leisure time activity and due to the current economic crisis many people are already struggling to afford to play. **A tax on golf will result in less play, which will translate into loss of jobs within the golf industry.**
- Charitable golf outings will suffer due to increased costs; in 2007 the total amount of charitable giving attributed to the game of golf in North Carolina exceeded **\$132 MILLION.**
- The financial impact of the tax on an industry that supports almost **70,000 jobs** in our state is not fair and justifiable when we are offering tax incentives to industries in an attempt to get them to MOVE into the state;
- Other industries will be affected as well, including the already struggling tourism and real estate industry.

You need to communicate your opposition to this tax to BOTH Senate leaders and House leaders. The best (and primary) means of communication should be by fax; but don't hesitate to also email and call the people on the list. **CRITICAL NOTE: IF YOU OR ANY MEMBER OF YOUR CLUB OR ORGANIZATION PERSONALLY KNOW ANY STATE ELECTED OFFICIAL PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU (OR THEY) CONTACT THAT OFFICIAL DIRECTLY EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT ON THE LIST AND LET THEM KNOW OF YOUR CONCERNS!!**

PAGE 2 of this document has the names and contact information of key SENATE leaders that need to hear from you! We have been actively lobbying these elected officials for the past 2 weeks and they are getting the message. PLEASE consult the "**Suggested Senate Leader Correspondence**" on **PAGE 4** prior to your communication with these Senators.

PAGE 3 of this document has the names and contact information of key HOUSE leaders that need to hear from you! Since the discussion for the Recreation and Entertainment Tax has been largely limited to the Senate Finance Committee, we have not been actively communicating with House members prior to July 16. We now believe it is appropriate to let the elected officials on **PAGE 3** hear from us and understand our position on this potential tax. PLEASE consult the "**Suggested House Leader Correspondence**" on **PAGE 5** prior to your communication with these Representatives.

PAGE 4 of this document contains suggested correspondence for SENATE leaders.

PAGE 5 of this document contains suggested correspondence for HOUSE leaders.

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Senate Leaders

Senator Dan Clodfelter (D)

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(919) 733-2599 (Fax)

SAMPLE LETTER/EMAIL TO YOUR STATE SENATOR:

(Note: This is a sample only; if you can customize it to your elected official from your area with any local anecdotes, please do so. The best way to deliver your message is by fax; but please make sure to email and call if you can. Please be polite in your communications! Our leaders are faced with a difficult situation, and although we strongly believe a tax on golf is the wrong answer, we still need to recognize the difficulty of their task.)

(Date)

The Honorable (Full Name)

(Address)

(City, State and Zip)

Dear Senator (Last Name)

I understand and appreciate the critical nature of the financial crisis that our state faces right now. I know that your task to balance our budget is challenging, but I want to express my concern over a potential tax on golf that has been mentioned as a part of the Recreation and Entertainment tax proposal. Taxing golf green fees and golf club membership would not only be detrimental to the golf industry, it would have a negative financial impact on the economy of our state at a time in which we can least afford it. Please consider:

- Golf **EMPLOYS** almost **70,000 people** in North Carolina with a wage base of **\$1.7 BILLION!**
- Golf is responsible for **\$132 MILLION** in charitable giving **ANNUALLY** through tournaments and events that are critical for non-profit's activities
- Golf courses contribute greatly to our quality of life, providing recreational opportunities, open green space and paying significant property taxes in communities all across the state
- The argument that the tax represents "Only the price of a Pro-V1 golf ball" is **NOT** realistic in the current economic climate; **in reality, it is a 7% increase in the cost of a purely discretionary activity** that many are **ALREADY** having to eliminate from their household budget due to economic concerns!! Golf courses across our state have already had to cut prices from last year, and are still struggling to maintain the same volume of business. If we could sustain a 7% increase in our revenue, we would not be seeing discounting of prices.

PLEASE DO NOT IMPOSE A RECREATION TAX ON GOLF!!!

As you move forward with your considerations on the budget, I ask that you avoid any further consideration of this tax due to the impact it will have on the golf industry and our state in general. Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)

SAMPLE LETTER/EMAIL TO YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE:

*(Note: This is a sample only; if you can customize it to your elected official from your area with any local anecdotes, please do so. **The best way to deliver your message is by fax**; but please make sure to email and call if you can. Please be polite in your communications! Our leaders are faced with a difficult situation, and although we strongly believe a tax on golf is the wrong answer, we still need to recognize the difficulty of their task.)*

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