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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

November 4, 2019

Arizona Department of Water Resources
Thomas Buschatzke, Director
1110 W. Washington St., Suite 310
Phoenix, AZ. 85007

Dear Director Buschatzke,

I am writing to you today regarding the fourth and fifth management plan and the effective outcome that the plans will have on the future of the Arizona Golf Industry. We empathize with the pressures that you are facing on the federal, state and local levels and we appreciate ADWR taking the time to meet with representatives of the golf industry recently to discuss the current fourth plan as well as the future direction of the fifth plan.

As you are aware, the Arizona golf industry is a major driver of tourism to the state. The industry has a total economic contribution of \$3.9 billion and supports 41,700 jobs throughout the state. The over 320 facilities support an estimated \$72 million in state and local taxes. The state hosts PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions and LPGA events with the annual Waste Management Phoenix Open drawing in excess of 700,000 fans. Additionally, Phoenix and Scottsdale serve as the headquarters for two of the most recognizable brands in the golf industry, Ping and Troon Golf Management.

The industry uses approximately 3.5 percent of total AMA water use and the use is beneficial. Golf course superintendents in Arizona have long been considered leaders in water management and use best management practices (BMPs) to balance the use of natural resources with the economic viability of their facilities. Arizona golf courses comply with some of the most stringent water budgets in the country. Under the fourth management plan, additional cuts in the Phoenix AMA from 4.9 acre-feet to 4.6 acre-feet per irrigated acre were proposed. It's our understanding that the ADWR and the golf industry have been discussing a 4.75 acre-feet budget that would reduce overall use, but still allow Phoenix area facilities to maintain conditions required by residents and visiting guests.

I support the 4.75 acre-feet budget and believe that it is beneficial to meeting the goals of water management in Arizona while allowing golf facilities to remain competitive with other golf destinations in the United States including Monterey, CA., Myrtle Beach, S.C. and Palm Springs, CA.

The golf industry is striving to communicate and educate both internally and externally on the use of natural resources and I appreciate the dialogue and cooperation that ADWR has established with the industry, particularly the Cactus & Pine Golf Course Superintendents Association which has spearheaded much of the outreach.

As an elected official, I encourage you to continue working with the golf industry as the fifth management plan evolves. It's crucial that we find a balance between environmental sustainability and economic output.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or a member of my staff and I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick Gray". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Rick Gray
Senate Majority Leader