Tim PawlentyState Representative House Majority Leader



Thomas W. Pugh State Representative House Minority Leader

Minnesota House of Representatives

April 15, 2002

University of Minnesota Board of Regents 200 Oak Street S.E. Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear Regents,

We, the undersigned members of the Minnesota House of Representatives, respectfully request that you delay your decision to eliminate Women's and Men's Varsity Golf at the University of Minnesota. We request this delay to allow supporters of the program adequate time to privately raise funds to help preserve this valued opportunity for student athletes.

In 1998, the Minnesota Legislature funded the National Youth Golf Center at the National Sports Center in Blaine, Minnesota, a major initiative of the PGA Tour First Tee Program and the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission (MASC). The Center is designed to help address the need for more training facilities to help meet the demand for youth golf interest in Minnesota, particularly for underprivileged children. According to the MASC, youth golf is among the fastest growing sports in the state. The intercollegiate golf program at the University of Minnesota produces the only Division I teams in the state and the only opportunity for Minnesota student athletes to compete nationally. Although it is a non-revenue producing sport, it is unique and important to the citizens of the state.

Please consider delaying your decision and any other options for reducing costs and increasing revenue within the program.

Tim Pawlenty

House Majority Leader

Tom Pugh

Sincerely,

House Minority Leader

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