



Bloomington

Minnesota Travel & Tourism

April 4, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for SF 3237/HF 3051 bills providing a sales tax exemption on admissions to PGA championship events. This bill will ensure that Minnesota remains a home for championship golf for the next two decades.

In 2016 Hazeltine National Golf Club hosted the Ryder Cup. Some of the critical impact this event created are as follows:

This event hosted 290,000 visitors from around the world;
Created \$130 million in economic impact for Minnesota; and
647 million households globally viewed the event, from over 44 countries.

Hazeltine is also hosting the 2026 KPMG Women's PGA Championship in 2026 and an unprecedented second Ryder Cup in 2029. These events will provide additional positive economic impact to the region and the state. From previous experience we know that hotel occupancy in the metropolitan area hit 98% during these events and over 70% of spectators attending these events extended their stays in Minnesota. We expect that future events will generate similar positive impacts.

Since the 2016 Ryder Cup the PGA has changed its method for awarding championship events. Instead of awarding championship events individually, they are now awarded in packages with several championship events covering a decade or more being awarded at one time. After negotiations with the PGA Hazeltine believes that it and the state of Minnesota are positioned to be awarded multiple PGA championship events over the next twenty years including:

1. Women's PGA Championships
2. Men's PGA Championships
3. Junior PGA Championships
4. Senior PGA championships
5. PGA Cup

It is estimated that these championship events will generate between \$400 and \$800 million of additional economic impact for the state. These events will also have positive charitable impacts for youth, military, and inclusion organizations. Being awarded this package also allows Hazeltine to be highly considered to be awarded a third Ryder Cup.

Minnesota is competing with other states in the Midwest and in awarding these packages the PGA strongly considers state government partnership and participation. Modeled after legislation passed by the 2017 legislature with respect to Super Bowl LII, SF 3237/HF 3051 provides a sales tax exemption on admissions to PGA championship events. This legislation ensures that Minnesota remains a home for championship golf for the next two decades, with significant economic and visibility benefits for the state.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you to move this proposal forward.
Sincerely,

Bonnie Carlson
President & CEO
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