

# **GOLF MONTH PROCLAMATION STATE OF WASHINGTON**

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**WHEREAS**, since Hudson’s Bay Company traders laid out a crude six-hole layout around the Old Fort in DuPont, Wash. in the 1830s – which historical research shows to be the first golf course in the Northwest – golf has been a key industry strengthening our economy, contributing to the vitality of local communities, educating youth, and conserving natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington’s 246 golf facilities generate revenue comparable to all spectator sports in the state combined, contributing more than \$1 billion annually to our economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington has hosted several international golf events, including the U.S. Open, PGA Championships, Men’s and Women’s Amateur championships, Senior, and celebrity golf events that bring people from all over the world to courses across our state; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington’s First Tee program is recognized for its unique approach for promoting youth development and having a positive measurable impact in communities across our state by providing after-school and in-school programs that reinforce integrity, respect and perseverance through the game of golf; and

**WHEREAS**, Golf course facilities are industry leaders in ecotourism, environmental education and sustainability, showcasing the game’s responsible leadership in water use, natural resource management and are taking an active role in helping municipalities and private industry recycle both treated water and compost; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington golf courses provide community green space and wildlife refuge, contribute to a healthy environment, and are great places for students to learn about sustainability through First Green, an innovative STEM education outreach program that started in Washington and is expanding across the nation, that uses golf courses as outdoor environmental learning labs; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I Jay Inslee, Governor of the State of Washington, do hereby proclaim May as Washington Golf Month and urge all residents join me in acknowledging the substantial contributions the golf industry makes to the State of Washington and enjoy the many community benefits the game provides.