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ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS ARE CHOKING OUR INDUSTRY. We must continue to raise the level of understanding about how golf courses can positively impact the environment and our communities. Local superintendents are trying to raise awareness, as is the industry's lobbying effort. This must continue and we must all get involved. Remember: A healthy golf course is better than a neglected cornfield.

I'm over 50 so perhaps the following hurts me more than it hurts you. Still, it's penny-wise and pound-foolish for clubs to view hiring a younger superintendent as a cost-savings measure. Nothing against the up-and-comers, but some top-flight supers with years of experience, knowledge and tenure are being dismissed or their positions eliminated for financial reasons. And I know from my perch as a consultant who helps clubs hire new supers that the options for us older guys are limited.

TECHNOLOGY. The gizmos and gadgets being introduced to the game are fun, but will they really help? Will apps engage more golfers or simply create more slow play? How much information can we absorb, and more important, how much will truly help how we play? Now contrast what's happening technologically in the world around us with what's happening at the governing bodies, which are considering putting more restrictions on equipment - shaft length, grooves, ball distance, belly putters, etc. How will less technology help the average golfer? How will that help bring new golfers to the game? If they see reasons to limit the power of the pros, I'm all for it; but not for the vast majority of golfers, the public.

As I said at the beginning, golf isn't all doom and gloom. I'm encouraged by the international emergence of golf. I think it's great that professional events are being won by golfers from all over the world. Golf in the Olympics could be a real boon to our business. At the PGA Show, architect Robert Trent Jones, Jr., said he was really excited to know that golfers from Latvia and Sweden will be competing against one another in Rio on a world stage. He's right.

One element of the new Golf 2.0 campaign that impressed me was the addition of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. That's 4 million kids we can introduce to golf now and keep as golfers for their entire lives. If we can get a few of them to love the game the way we do the long-term outlook for golf will become much rosier. **GCI**