

Keeping Abreast of Politics — A Must

Many bills are introduced into state legislatures and the U.S. Congress each day that will affect the working conditions of golf course superintendents.

Some recent bills include those protecting workers against skin irritation caused by chemicals used on the job, banning certain pesticides, and requiring that lawn mowers turn off automatically when the operator takes his hands off the machine.

These bills, if they become law, will have a major influence on each superintendent.

More superintendents need to become more involved in politics — particularly when it concerns legislation that pertains to their profession. The best way for a superintendent to obtain information about pending bills and resolutions is to contact his Congressman.

Writing a letter and expressing your views on what course he should follow on a particular issue is the best way to reach your Congressman. Let him know if you like or dislike his voting record. He needs your advice. You are the professional in your field and he will listen to you.

A well-researched letter means more than 1,000 names on a petition, says an aide to one Congressman. Another method of influencing Congressmen is to

explain what effect a particular piece of legislation would have on you. Personal letters are the most effective way of reaching a legislator according to a recent U.S. Chamber of Commerce survey of Congressional staffs.

Here are some guidelines that may help when writing federal, state, county or municipal legislators:

- Write on your personal business letterhead, if possible. Handwritten letters, if they are legible, are sometimes more effective than those that are typed.

- Put your return address on the envelope *and* the letter; sometimes envelopes are discarded before the letter is answered.

- Identify your subject clearly. State the name of the legislation you are writing about and the House or Senate bill number, if you know it.

- State your reason for writing. Your best supporting evidence is your personal experience. Explain how the issue will affect you, your business, profession, family or what effect it could have on your state or community.

- Avoid stereotyped phrases and sentences that give the appearance of form letters.

- Be reasonable. Don't ask for the impossible. Don't threaten; it may only hinder your cause, not help it.

- Ask your legislator to state his position on the issue. As his constituent you are entitled to know.

- The most important consideration is timing. Try to write your Congressman while the bill is in committee. Your legislator can be more responsive to your appeal at that time rather than later on when the bill has already been approved by a committee.

- If a legislator pleases you with his vote on an issue, thank him. Compliments should be offered if they are deserved. Everybody appreciates a complimentary letter — and remembers it.

- If your legislator votes against your position, don't hesitate to let him know you are displeased. He will remember that, too.

There are several ways of addressing your Congressman. A common method is:

Honorable John Doe
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

There are numerous sources of information on pending bills. Besides writing to state and U.S. legislators, you can write to federal and state agencies or departments, local county extension agents or other local institutions.

A professional superintendent is one who is politically well-informed and active.

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JOB OPENINGS

The City of Bloomington is currently seeking a qualified individual to fill an immediate need for greenskeeper.

Qualifications include demonstrated mechanical aptitude, good physical condition and ability to repair equipment. Prior golf course maintenance experience desirable. Salary range from \$728 to \$827 per month with excellent fringe benefits. Deadline for filing applications is 4:30 p.m. on June 7, 1977.

If interested, please apply at City of Bloomington, 2215 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, Minn. 55431. Affirmative action equal opportunity employer.

GEM LAKE GOLF CLUB

Ned Dwyer of the Gem Lake Golf Club is seeking a retired mechanic or part time mechanic. Salary open. Gem Lake is an 18-Hole, Par 3 golf course. If interested contact Ned Dwyer, 4039 Scheuneman Road, White Bear Lake, Minn. 55110. Telephone 612/429-9873.