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October 30, 2018

Bowls USA,
Southwest Lawn Bowls Association
Southwest Women's Division
Phil Dunn
President
California

Re: Lawn Bowling as part of an Age-Friendly Community

Dear Mr. Dunn,

AARP's Network of Age-friendly States and Communities encourages states, cities, towns, and counties to prepare for the rapid aging of the U.S. population by paying increased attention to the environment, as well as economic and social factors that influence the health and well-being of aging adults. Age-friendly or livable communities have walkable streets, housing and transportation options, access to key services, opportunities for residents to participate in community activities and places where people of all ages and abilities can gather. Age-friendly communities that put a premium on health by increasing opportunities for physical activity, making healthy foods available, easing access to health care, and helping residents manage chronic conditions and mitigate risk factors, benefit all generations.

On behalf of AARP California's 3.3 million members, I am writing to commend the Southwest Men's and Women's Lawn Bowling Association Divisions for its advocacy at the local level, both in addressing the growing need to build new lawn bowling facilities and supporting the preservation of existing lawn bowling clubs in various communities

Lawn bowling facilities enable users to maintain valuable physical and social interaction, which positively impact the well-being of aging adults in the community. In a recent AARP survey of California residents' age 50 and over, 80 percent said that parks and open spaces were somewhat or very important to have in their community.

For these reasons, AARP California strongly supports the inclusion of lawn bowling facilities as part of any community's general plan. We believe that this will help begin to address the needs of the growing demographic of aging adults, while also increasing access to parks and open spaces for people of all ages and abilities. Thank you for your continued advocacy efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nancy C. McPherson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Nancy McPherson
State Director