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## ***BIAW Receives Top Award from National Association of Home Builders***

The Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW) received an Association Excellence Award on August 13 for its Fix Hirst campaign from the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) during its annual Association Management Conference in Long Beach, CA.

BIAW received the AEA award in the Best Regional Government Affairs Effort category.

Fix Hirst was a statewide educational campaign launched in February 2017 to inform the public, elected officials and others about the harmful effects and proposed solutions to a 2016 Washington State Supreme Court ruling called the Hirst decision. The court ruling restricted building on rural land that relied on permit-exempt wells, curtailing most new development in these areas and creating uncertainty for Washington's residents, property owners, businesses as well as city and county governments.

"The Fix Hirst campaign brought together a broad coalition of groups to educate Washington residents about a complex water rights issue that could have had devastating economic consequences in many areas of the state," said BIAW Executive Vice President Greg Lane. "We're honored to receive this recognition from the nation's largest home builders association for our role in this successful collaborative effort to protect homeowners, businesses and communities."

The campaign included a vast array of media and grassroots efforts, including: visiting legislators at the capitol to deliver empty Fix Hirst water bottles that contained messages and small houses; commissioning an economic impact study; meeting with media editorial boards; creating and distributing educational materials; and developing a website, among other coordinated efforts.

Also during the Association Management Conference, Art Castle received the AEA Seldon Hale award for the highest level of leadership and dedication, loyalty, and commitment to association management. Castle formerly served as the Executive Vice President of BIAW before retiring from the organization, and was nominated by BIAW for the career achievement award.

NAHB's AEA awards recognize outstanding accomplishments of state and local home builder associations across the country and executive officers in the field of association management.

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*Known as the "champions of affordable housing," the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW) is the largest trade association in Washington state and represents nearly 8,000 members in the home building industry.*