



NEWS RELEASE

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BIAW Endorses Rossi

OLYMPIA—The Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW) has endorsed Republican candidate for Governor Dino Rossi, the first trade association endorsement for the Rossi 2008 campaign.

“BIAW is committed to supporting candidates who champion affordable housing and the continued economic growth of this state,” said incoming BIAW President Brad Spears. “Dino Rossi clearly fits the bill.”

BIAW believes Washington State has for too long been run by governors who have little or no experience working in the private sector—most have spent the bulk of their career working for the government. It is hard to “change the culture of Olympia” (a promise Gregoire made in 2004) when that culture is the only one our leaders have ever known. “If we want to change the climate of our state government, which has existed for nearly 25 years, we must infuse a new breed of leader into the governor’s office,” said Spears. “A new breed of leader like Dino Rossi, who believes the governor should work for the citizens of the state, not work to protect the out-of-control bureaucrats running our state agencies.”

Rossi’s populist-themed campaign platform mirrors the list of complaints BIAW has expressed for the past three years; Gregoire ran as an opponent of tax increases and has since implemented the largest gas tax increase in state history and reestablished the death tax; Gregoire declared in 2004 she would “blow past the bureaucracy,” change the culture of Olympia and control government spending, yet in three years she has added 6,000 new state employees and increased state spending by 33 percent (\$8.2 billion), leading the state toward a huge budget deficit.

“The future of Washington State hinges on the election of a pro-small business governor,” said Spears. “Christine Gregoire has been in office for three years and hasn’t made Washington more business friendly—Washington state businesses pay higher taxes than in most other states, we rank poorly on business competitiveness and we boast the highest rate of small business failure in the nation,” he said. “As Attorney General and Governor, Gregoire has demonstrated time and again her allegiance to big government and big business—we need to elect a pro-small business governor like Dino Rossi.”

Known as the “voice of the housing industry,” the Building Industry Association of Washington is the largest trade association in Washington State, representing over 350,000 families and 13,500 member companies involved in the homebuilding business.

