



Building Industry Association of Washington

Post Office Box 1909 • Olympia, WA 98507 • 1-800-228-4229 • (360) 352-7800

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Erin Shannon
Public Relations Director
1-800-228-4229

It's Payoff Time for Gregoire/Tribes

OLYMPIA—Last week's announcement by Washington State gambling regulators that Governor Christine Gregoire will allow tribes to significantly expand their gambling compacts came as little surprise to BIAW.

While many in the media ponder why Gregoire, who has until now steadfastly opposed gambling expansions, has reversed positions on this issue, BIAW long ago connected the dots between Gregoire's fundraising efforts, tribes' hefty contributions to Gregoire's political causes and a final payback.

This issue caught BIAW's attention last fall, when PDC reports revealed the Puyallup and Tulalip Indian tribes had, at that time, contributed \$150,000 to FairPAC, the political group supporting Washington Supreme Court Justice Gerry Alexander's re-election bid. BIAW was curious why tribes would care enough about the state Supreme Court to write such generous checks. As sovereign nations, tribes have their own court system for deciding cases involving tribal members, and any legal wrangling over tribes' treaty rights is handled by federal courts.

BIAW theorized that given Gregoire's then recent announcement she would be fundraising aggressively in support of Alexander, some sort of deal had been cut. The question was what? BIAW even issued a press release (copy attached) asking the question on September 7, 2006.

"Newspapers around the state took every opportunity to highlight BIAW's participation in those Supreme Court races and condemn us for 'tainting' the elections with special interest money," said BIAW Executive Vice President Tom McCabe. "BIAW was under media's microscope for daring to participate in the election of our state's Justices," said McCabe. "Though newspapers provided ongoing coverage of the races, not one reporter ever responded to BIAW's numerous pleas to examine the Gregoire—tribal connection."

BIAW even urged several reporters to tackle the issue immediately after the Spokane deal was announced—BIAW predicted the Spokane tribe's gambling expansion was a back door to extend the same deal to other gaming tribes (like Puyallups and Tulalips).

"It's a shame no reporter or newspaper had the nerve to ask the question we've been asking over and over since last year—what deal did Gregoire cut with the tribes in exchange for their contributions to Alexander's campaign?" said McCabe. "Now we finally know the answer."

