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BIAW Receives Partnership Award from Association of Washington Cities

The Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW) is proud to announce it has received the 2018 City Champion Award in the Partners for Progress Award category from the Association of Washington Cities. The award was given to BIAW, among other partners, for finding common ground to help pass Hirst and Foster “fix” legislation and for their efforts to ensure that city challenges were considered during the process.

BIAW worked closely with AWC as well as Washington Realtors and Washington Farm Bureau, who are also receiving a City Champion Award, to ensure final legislation would provide certainty to those affected by Hirst and Foster state Supreme Court rulings.

In notifying BIAW, the AWC said: “This award recognizes the unique partnerships created to address the complex water resource issues that faced our state these past few years. Specifically, we want to recognize the outstanding work and collaboration that (BIAW Government Affairs Director) Jan Himebaugh provided to help with the Hirst and Foster water ‘fix’ and for your Association’s support for ensuring that city needs were not left behind in the final deal. We are also awarding representatives of the Counties, Realtors, and the Farm Bureau. The collective effort this session to find opportunities for common ground was exemplary. We look forward to continuing our partnership.”

In response to the award, Kevin Russell, President of BIAW, stated: “We are honored to be an AWC award recipient along with all of the other partners. BIAW is pleased that we were able to find common ground and a mutually agreed to fix for the Hirst and Foster decisions. We look forward to continuing to work together on similar issues.”

Art Castle, BIAW Executive Vice President, said: “We value the strong relationships that were developed to find realistic and sensible solutions for the Hirst and Foster Supreme Court rulings, which were harming Washington residents and businesses. We appreciate this award from AWC in recognition of this collaborative effort.”

AWC also noted BIAW’s involvement as a partner in working toward forward-thinking solutions:

“Issues with water from wells have gained a lot of attention over the last two years. Securing water for future growth that hooks up to municipal systems is also a pressing need for many smaller cities,” said Carl Schroeder, Government Relations Advocate for the Association of Washington Cities. “BIAW’s support was critical to ensuring that the needs of small cities weren’t left behind while the conversation focused on well drilling.”

“A vibrant housing market is a key component for strong cities,” said Peter B. King, Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Washington Cities. “We need builders to help our communities grow, and we appreciate that BIAW recognizes that cities need strong business and community partnerships for everyone to succeed. AWC appreciates the productive relationship we’ve built together.”

The City Champion Award – Partners for Progress will be presented by AWC at BIAW’s summer board of directors meeting on Friday, June 22 in Pasco, WA.

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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.

The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) is an Olympia-based organization advocating on behalf of Washington’s 281 cities and towns.