



## A Long Track Record of Aggressively Underhanded Campaigning

The Building Industry Association of Washington has spent millions on outrageous political attack ads and other strategies to slam Gov. Christine Gregoire and move Dino Rossi into the governor's mansion. The Association's "war chest" to elect Rossi has been skimmed from refunds that the state's Workers' Compensation Retro program intended for 6,000 BIAW member companies.

While the BIAW is buying and producing attacks with its Retro fees, many of its members who participate in the program are laying off workers and struggling to pay their bills.

Below are eight examples of what in 2005 The Seattle Times called the BIAW's "sleazy political tactics."

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### 2004

BIAW-sponsored "trash ads" in support of Dino Rossi in 2004 were pulled off the air because they contained lies erroneously tying then Attorney General Gregoire to the new primary system. According to the Seattle Times: "The Building Industry Association of Washington, which supports Republican candidate Dino Rossi, bought \$500,000 worth of air time to peddle ads that are lies and distortions." (Seattle Times, September 2004)

### 2005

The BIAW used a dishonest scheme to check the signatures of voters who signed affidavits in support of absentee and provisional ballots in the governor's election. During March, the association sent out what they called a "housing survey" along with a \$10 check to these voters. The scheme was designed to entice people into taking their phony survey. The BIAW then compared signatures on the cashed checks to those on voter affidavits.

"Sleazy political tactics are no way to uncover errors in the governor's race. Yet the

Building Industry Association of Washington took the low road and conducted a phony survey in an attempt to trick people into providing their signatures ..... But let's not mince words. It is political sleaze." (Published editorial in The Seattle Times editorial, March 2005)

## 2006

In 2006, the BIAW ran a television ad absurdly suggesting Supreme Court Justice Gerry Alexander condoned drunken driving. The ad was a misrepresentation of Alexander's 2003 expression of personal support in a trying time for colleague Justice Bobbe Bridge, who had been arrested for driving under the influence. The BIAW spent \$638,000 trying to unseat Justice Alexander that year, but were unsuccessful.

### TV Attack Ad Content

NARRATOR: Justice Bobbe Bridge is arrested for drunk driving and hit-and-run. The very next day, Chief Justice Gerry Alexander publicly expresses support for Bridge. Alexander backs Bridge despite her driving drunk with a blood alcohol level nearly three times the legal limit.

FORMER LEWIS COUNTY SHERIFF JOHN McCROSKEY: What Gerry Alexander did was wrong. Justices must live by the same laws as everyone else.

NARRATOR: Gerry Alexander. Justice for who[m]?

## 2006

The BIAW also paid for a radio ad attacking Chief Justice Gerry Alexander's age in the fall of 2006.

### Radio Attack Ad Content

NARRATOR: "When it's your time, you know it. You're tired, you get sloppy, you make mistakes. Take Chief Justice Gerry Alexander, he's been a judge since Nixon was president. In recent years, Alexander has not only lost a step or two, he's done real damage."

## January 2008

BIAW has aimed much of its promotion of Dino Rossi for Governor by attacking the character (and gender) of incumbent Gov. Christine Gregoire.

The association described Gregoire as "a heartless, power-hungry she-wolf who would eat her young to get ahead." (Statement published in Building Insight, BIAW's official newsletter, January 2008)

## March 2008

BIAW equates environmental protection with Hitler and Nazism, accusing mainstream environmentalists of condoning eco-terrorism.

“The German Nazi party expressed many of the ecological refrains we hear today. Nazis were the vanguard of conservationism...The Nazis also came up with far-reaching land-use restrictions...thus green building and smart growth ideas are not something new.”— Published in Building Insight, BIAW’s official newsletter, March 2008.

## June 2008

BIAW airs misleading radio ad accusing Gov. Christine Gregoire of leniency toward child molesters.

The ad smears Gregoire and an alternative sentencing program adopted in 1984, a full 20 years before her election. Under the program, fewer than 200 low-risk adult offenders are sentenced annually.

### Radio Attack Ad Content

VOICE OF PATRICIA GIBBS: “My granddaughter was 12 years old and my daughter’s fiancé had sexually assaulted her. I mean, I could tell you incidences that would just make you sick.”

NARRATOR: “There are over 19,000 sexual offenders living in our state, in our neighborhoods. Over 1,300 are considered homeless or untraceable.”

PATRICIA GIBBS: “He was arrested and charged with rape. He served five and a half months in jail and they sentenced him to counseling.”

NARRATOR: “During Christine Gregoire’s term as governor, hundreds of dangerous child predators have eluded justice through Washington state’s Sexual Offender Sentencing Alternative program”

PATRICIA: “The governor has made it easier for these perpetrators to get away with what they want to do. I don’t know how she can go to sleep at night.”

[Are the BIAW at least trying to hint that she had fought for it again during her governorship? Or did Gregoire truly have nothing to do with the policy’s implementation or continuation?]

## June 2008

This summer, BIAW stooped to “divide and conquer” tactics, maligning eastern and western Washington to promote Dino Rossi. The association spent \$160,000 to put up 61 billboards across eastern Washington with the message: “Don’t let Seattle Steal This Election.”