



A Wrong Way Strategy for Global Warming? **Understanding Dino Rossi's backwards approach to global warming**

We recognize that it's difficult to understand how a credible candidate for Governor could produce a proposal for reducing carbon dioxide pollution that actually increases emissions. We have never before encountered a plan to reduce global warming pollution that actually increases emissions.

A review of Rossi's voting record in the Washington State Senate and his track record on global warming helps explain this unusual situation. As our Rossi Global Warming Timeline outlines, Dino Rossi refused to acknowledge that global warming was real until four months ago, and he voted with the special interests opposed to all the global warming bills that came his way while he was in the State Senate.

In short, a global warming plan that actually increases global warming pollution is fairly consistent with Rossi's record.

Rossi Votes on Global Warming Legislation

- *Rossi Opposed Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions by State Government.* SB 6718 mandated that "State government adopt a policy to meet its energy needs with no net increase in greenhouse gas emissions." Rossi voted "Do not pass." [SB 6718, 2/12/02, Rossi – Do not pass]
- *Rossi Opposed Recognizing the Threat of Climate Change.* SB 6718 found that "State government actions to promote and use clean energy are consistent with the state's environmental commitments, including addressing the increasingly imminent dangers to Washington's qualities of life that are threatened by global climate changes and improving local and regional air quality." Rossi voted "Do not pass." [SB 6718, 2/12/02, Rossi – Do not pass]
- *Rossi Opposed Making Washington State Government a Leader in Clean Energy Consumption.* SB 6718 found that "As a significant consumer of energy resources and a committed steward of public health and environmental quality, Washington state government is well-positioned to be a leader in promoting and using clean energy." Rossi voted "Do not pass." [SB 6718, 2/12/02, Rossi – Do not pass]

Dino Rossi Global Warming Timeline

A record of skepticism about the science of global warming: Dino Rossi has only recently come to believe that global warming exists. For much of his political career he has considered the phenomena of global warming as a debate, not scientific fact. Just last March, Rossi told voters in Port Orchard he didn't think "anyone should panic" about global warming. In May of this year Rossi finally warmed up to the concept of climate change when he told a Seattle Post-Intelligencer reporter that "there's no doubt the planet is warming." Below is the progression of Rossi's awakening to global warming.

2002 – Rossi votes against SB 6718 “Recognizing the Threat of Climate Change”

2004 – The Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW), a leading voice for development and against environmental protections to fight global warming in Washington State, spends more than \$1 million in support of Rossi gubernatorial campaign

2004 – Rossi’s votes to support the BIAW “99% of the time,” according to the BIAW.

March 2008 – Rossi appears before the Port Orchard Chamber of Commerce and indicates he is not convinced global warming is a critical issue. He tells voters that this issue is nothing to “panic” about, and “we’ll see how this debate goes.”

March 2008 – BIAW releases a special Global Warming Report insert in its newsletter *Building Insight* outlining what the association is doing to oppose the State’s efforts to reduce global warming pollution. Highlighted on the list: “Endorsing Dino Rossi for governor.”

May 2008 – In early May, Rossi refuses to tell Seattle Times reporters if he actually thought global warming was real. “I am not a scientist,” he told reporter Andrew Garber.

Late May 2008 – In an interview with Seattle Post-Intelligencer reporter Chris McGann, Rossi concedes that he agrees with Chris Gregoire that global warming is real and that “we need to do something about it,” and that his proposal “is the only serious proposal that would remove carbon from the air.”

September 2008 – Fuse, Sierra Club, and Washington Conservation Voters release an analysis of Rossi’s proposal documenting the fact that it actually adds an additional 21.5 million tons of carbon dioxide pollution to the atmosphere.