



Inland Northwest Business Alliance

The Region's LGBTQA Business & Professional Chamber

Spokane | Tri-Cities | North Idaho

For Immediate Release

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INBA Statement on Charlottesville, VA Protests

The recent events in Charlottesville, Virginia shocked, saddened, angered, and disappointed many of us. Indeed, feelings across the spectrum were felt—and will continue to be—throughout the United States. Here, in the Inland Northwest, INBA reaffirms its commitment to advocate for the fairness, inclusivity, and equity for all individuals in the communities we serve. We believe that when businesses support and embrace diversity, the economy grows and our community thrives.

To achieve this, the right to assemble peacefully and freedom of speech must be upheld. While this applies to any and all citizens—and should continue to do so—we believe that there is a clear and distinct difference between expressing beliefs, values, and grievances, versus a call to harm fellow human beings. This disregard for human life is at the core of what several of the groups—namely the KKK, neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and white nationalists—who participated in the protests, is at the core of their invocation. It is a malicious and hateful call to action that is unacceptable as a society, harmful for humanity, and detrimental to businesses and our economy.

Regardless of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status, our community is stronger together. As the region's LGBT and ally chamber of commerce, INBA will continue to advocate on behalf of these individuals to create an economically robust and civically engaged community through the acceptance of diversity throughout our region.

Inland Northwest Business Alliance (INBA) is Spokane's LGBTQA Chamber of Commerce with members in Eastern Washington and North Idaho. INBA was established in 1994 with a charter group of 25 members as a 501(c)6 non-profit organization to network and socialize in a safe environment. INBA's mission is to develop a prosperous business community by advocating LGBT and Ally business perspectives.

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