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Latest Doyle Campaign Ad: Sets the Record Straight on Ethics

Congressman Green: Hiding His Campaign Finance Violations Behind Distortions About Governor Doyle

MADISON – One day before Congressman Mark Green heads to court to try to keep his nearly \$468,000 in illegal special interest PAC money, the Doyle campaign released an ad that sets the record straight on ethics.

“Congressman Green is trying to hide the fact that he broke Wisconsin’s campaign finance laws behind distortions about Governor Doyle’s record,” said Anson Kaye, Communications Director for the Doyle campaign. “Now that Congressman Green’s Washington ethics have been exposed, he and his big money special interest pals are scrambling to muddy the waters by spreading falsehoods about the Governor. That’s disgraceful and desperate, and we’re not going to let it happen.”

Last month, the State Elections Board ruled that Congressman Green violated two state campaign finance laws when he transferred nearly \$468,000 in illegal special interest PAC money from his federal to his state campaign account.

The Board gave him 10 days to divest himself of the illegal money, but Congressman Green says he doesn’t have to follow Wisconsin’s campaign finance laws, so he’s going to keep it.

And now, Congressman Green and his special interest friends have stepped up their efforts to hide Green’s defiance of the law behind distortions about the Governor’s record, including a new Republican Governors Association (RGA) attack ad that repeats dishonest distortions and half-truths about Governor Doyle. Attached is a fact check on the RGA ad.

And the beat goes on: tomorrow, Congressman Green goes to court to defend his illegal money.

“Congressman Green’s fight to keep his illegal money, and the lengths he will go to distort the Governor’s record tells you all you need to know about Green’s values and ethics,” Kaye said. “He puts his personal ambition over what’s best for Wisconsin time and time and time again.”

The ad, a 30-second spot, is entitled “Give it Back.” It will begin airing today.

It is the latest spot in a substantial, statewide effort by the Doyle campaign to communicate the Governor’s record and vision to Wisconsin families.

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Paid for By Doyle for Wisconsin, Karin Gale, Treasurer.
PO Box 2687, Madison, WI 53701

The spot was produced by Jim Margolis of the media firm GMMB.

Margolis, a senior partner at GMMB, has served as a key strategist for three presidential campaigns, including Bill Clinton's successful election to the White House. His current clients include Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), Senator Max Baucus (D-Mont.), Senator Kent Conrad (D-N.D.), Senator Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Senator Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), and Senator Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.).

He has also provided strategic counsel, public affairs advice and advertising services to a variety of corporate and nonprofit clients, including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Cisco Systems, League of Conservation Voters, Kaiser Family Foundation, WIRED magazine, Communications Workers of America, SBC, Fannie Mae Foundation, Carnegie Corporation, AFSCME, and the Disney Channel.

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FACT CHECK ON FALSE AD RUN BY CONGRESSMAN GREEN'S ALLIES

What the ad says:

"A jury found Governor Doyle's aide guilty of a felony. She rigged the bids for a state travel contract."

Fact Check:

Georgia Thompson was by no means an "aide" to Governor Doyle.

- **Fact:** Georgia Thompson was one of over 60,000 state workers, a "mid-level state Department of Administration civil servant" who "was hired under former GOP Gov. Scott McCallum." [Source: Wisconsin State Journal, 6/5/06]
- **Fact:** When Thompson was found guilty at trial, Governor Doyle instructed the Department of Administration to terminate her employment. [Source: Governor Doyle Press Release, 6/12/06]

What the ad says:

"Prosecutors proved the contractors first met with Governor Doyle himself."

Fact Check:

Governor Doyle never met with Craig Adelman.

- **Fact:** The Governor never met with Craig Adelman, and the news outlet that reported it was forced to run a correction, saying: "An article Wednesday stated that Gov. Jim Doyle met with Adelman Travel Group's chief executive officer, Craig Adelman, in April 2004 regarding corporate travel for the state ... Although Doyle's official schedule said he was meeting with Craig Adelman and his father, Albert 'Ollie' Adelman, chairman of the company, it was learned Wednesday that only the father actually attended the meeting. The article also pointed out that Craig Adelman contributed \$10,000 to Doyle's campaign around the time the contract was awarded. Campaign finance records compiled by the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign show that Albert Adelman did not contribute to Doyle at that time." [Source: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 6/7/06]

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What the ad says:

“Doyle got campaign money, the contributors got a major state contract.”

Fact Check:

The contract received by Adelman Travel was worth \$36,000, and Governor Doyle terminated the contract after the Thompson indictment.

- **Fact:** Adelman Travel received only about \$36,000 under the state contract. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/31/06]
- **Fact:** After the Thompson indictment, Governor Doyle instructed the Department of Administration to terminate the contract with Adelman. [Source: Governor Doyle Press Release, 1/30/06]
- **Fact:** Adelman Travel failed to win three of the four contracts it bid for, and another bidder on the travel contract testified that his family donated almost \$30,000 to Doyle between 2002 and 2005, but didn't get any of six contracts his company applied for. [Sources: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/30/06; Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 6/9/06]

What the ad says:

“Legal documents say there was a significant political connection between the contractor and the upper levels of state government including Governor Doyle.”

Fact Check:

No evidence of any kind has ever been produced, before, during, or after the trial, to suggest that Thompson had any knowledge of any contacts or links between Adelman executives and Administration officials. Prosecutors at trial made clear that the only person they were interested in was Georgia Thompson.

- **Fact:** “U.S. Attorney Steven Biskupic said after the verdict that the case was about ‘Georgia Thompson and Georgia Thompson alone.’” [Source: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 6/13/06]
- **Fact:** “Biskupic cautioned that the case was not about Doyle.” [Source: Appleton Post-Crescent, 6/14/06]
- **Fact:** “The government opened its case against Georgia Thompson Monday, putting to rest speculation the probe into the state employee's role in awarding a travel contract to a major donor of Gov. Jim Doyle's campaign would reach deeper inside the Democratic governor's administration. ‘This case is not about the politicians you're going to hear about,’ U.S. Attorney Steven Biskupic said in his opening statement...” [Source: Wisconsin State Journal, 6/6/06]
- **Fact:** Thompson herself testified at trial, under oath, that “she was never pressured by officials appointed by Gov. Jim Doyle to award a state contract to Adelman Travel Group.” [Source: AP, 6/9/06]

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