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Indiana cancels contract with PR agency after RFRA damage assessment

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By The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana's economic development agency says it has ended a contract with a New York public relations agency it hired to assess the damage to the state's reputation after a [religious objections law](#) sparked boycott calls.

Indiana Economic Development Corp. executive vice president Chris Cotterill said Thursday that national recognition of the state's business-friendly climate and cost management efforts guided the decision to cancel the contract with Porter Novelli.

The IEDC had hired Porter Novelli in May to help develop a plan to rebuild the state's image after widespread criticism over the religious objections law. Critics contended the law would allow religious beliefs as a legal defense for discrimination against lesbians, gays and others before lawmakers revised its language.

The IEDC says Porter Novelli will be paid \$365,000 for its work.

John Zody, Chairman of the Indiana Democratic Party, released this statement:

"[Gov.] Mike Pence's arrogance must be at its peak if he thinks the overall well-being of Indiana is 'booming' following his RFRA mess. Aside the \$250 million economic panic Governor Pence caused the state, Indiana ranked 44th in the nation for total economic growth at .4% GDP in 2014....The early termination of this contract raises more questions than provides answers. Governor Pence should release the contract as well as the plan Porter Novelli put together immediately."

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7/10/2015

Indiana cancels contract with PR agency after RFRA damage assess - 13 WTHR Indianapolis
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