Chafee: 'Holiday' tree, not Xmas tree

By: MJ Lee
November 30, 2011 08:47 AM EST

The holidays are bringing about a battle of tradition vs. political correctness in Rhode Island, where the governor is insisting on calling the Statehouse Christmas tree a “holiday tree.”

Gov. Lincoln Chafee, a Republican turned independent, has bothered one state legislator so much that she is labeling him a “Grinch.”

Nonetheless, Chafee, a former senator, pushed back on those upset with his tree description, saying that “all those engaged in this discussion — whatever their opinion on the matter — to use their energy and enthusiasm to make a positive difference in the lives of their fellow Rhode Islanders,” according to The Associated Press.

The governor and the state’s first lady are scheduled to host the annual statehouse tree lighting of a 17-foot Colorado Blue Spruce on Dec. 6.

Rhode Island Rep. Doreen Costa said Wednesday she was “disturbed” when she first heard the Statehouse tree being referred to as a holiday tree.

“If it has lights and ornaments and an angel and decorations on top, it’s a Christmas tree,” the freshman legislator said on Fox.

Costa was the sponsor of a state resolution that declared that the tree in question should be called a Christmas tree, not a holiday tree. The resolution passed the state House of Representatives in January.

“He’s just … as far as left as you can possibly be,” Costa told Fox News Radio on Tuesday. “He tries to be politically correct 24-7.”

She added, “I’m sick of being politically correct. Nobody’s been offended by calling a Christmas tree a Christmas tree. If we have a Menorah in the statehouse, what are we going to call it — a candle with sticks?”

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