

ALEC EXPOSED

"ALEC" has long been a secretive collaboration between Big Business and "conservative" politicians. Behind closed doors, they ghostwrite "model" bills to be introduced in state capitols across the country. This agenda-underwritten by global corporations-- includes major tax loopholes for big industries and the super rich, proposals to offshore U.S. jobs and gut minimum wage, and efforts to weaken public health, safety, and environmental protections. Although many of these bills have become law, until now, their origin has been largely unknown. With ALEC EXPOSED, the Center for Media and Democracy hopes more Americans will study the bills to understand the depth and breadth of how big corporations are changing the legal rules and undermining democracy across the nation.

DID YOU KNOW? Corporations VOTED to adopt this. Through ALEC, global companies work as "equals" in "unison" with politicians to write laws to govern your life. Big Business has "a VOICE and a VOTE," according to newly exposed documents. DO YOU?

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Resolution on Trade Promotion Authority

Did you know that Reynolds American-- one of the biggest tobacco companies in the world-- was the corporate co-chair in 2011?

Summary

This resolution on Trade Promotion Authority recognizes that the President of the United States should be granted trade promotion authority in order to continue job creation, economic growth, and expand economic prosperity through new trade policies.

Model Resolution

{Title, enacting clause, etc}

WHEREAS, Americans are deeply concerned with job creation, economic stability, and expanding economic prosperity throughout the United States, and;

WHEREAS, international trade is a critical engine of growth for the U.S. economy as real Gross Domestic Product grew at 3.4% while U.S. exports of goods and services grew 12.7% in 2006, and;

WHEREAS, the U.S exported \$1.4 trillion in goods and services accounting for 28% percent of our Gross Domestic Product in 2006, and;

WHEREAS, studies show that post World War II trade liberalization has raised annual incomes by \$1 trillion, or \$9,000 per American household, and export-related jobs pay 13 to 18 percent more than the average job, and;

WHEREAS, many of these jobs depend upon continued access to foreign markets and increased openness of those markets, and;

WHEREAS, the U.S. has implemented free trade agreements with 11 new countries since 2001 as a result of the authority granted to the President by the Trade Act of 2002

WHEREAS, U.S. exports to free trade agreement partner countries in 2006 grew by more than 26%, twice the rate of U.S. exports to the rest of the world, and;

WHEREAS, current U.S. FTA partners account for only 7% of world GDP, but purchase 42% of U.S. exports and;

WHEREAS, without trade promotion authority the ability of the U.S. to continue to expand and open markets around the world and to establish and enforce fair and transparent international trading rules would be seriously constrained and U.S. businesses and farmers would lose market opportunities to foreign competitors, and;

WHEREAS, from 1974, every U.S. President has received trade promotion negotiating authority from Congress,

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State/Commonwealth of (Insert State) urges the U.S. Congress to enact the appropriate legislation to grant the President trade promotion negotiating authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be sent to each member of Congress.

Adopted by the CIED Task Force at the States and Nation Policy Summit, December 15, 2001. Approved by the ALEC Board of Directors January 2002.

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Center for Media and Democracy's quick summary

From its 1998 resolution in support of "Fast Track" Trade Promotion Authority-- which was used to push a permanent normal trading relationship with China through Congress in 2000 with little discussion or debate-- to more recent resolutions in support of the proposed Colombia, Panama and Korea Free Trade Agreements, ALEC has consistently urged its members to support a radical "free trade" agenda. This free trade agenda has cost America millions of jobs as factories closed and moved overseas in search of cheaper labor. Since 2001, an estimated 2.4 million American jobs have been lost to China alone. Now a diverse array of service sector jobs, from accounting and tax preparation to health care and credit card servicing, are being off-shored under these agreements. Such free trade agreements also allow public health, consumer, environmental and worker safety rules to be challenged as "barriers to trade" in trade tribunals that operate outside the constraints of U.S. law.

ALEC has also been a major promoter of the U.S. tobacco industry, which seeks to hook new generations of smokers on their products around the world. Reynolds Tobacco is the corporate co-chair of the International Relations Task Force of ALEC. ALEC has a trade resolution specifically targeting the European Union ban on Snus, a moist tobacco product often marketed to the young with fruit flavors. Reynolds produces Camel Snus in four flavors and is not happy that this dangerous product is banned in most of Europe. Note that ALEC maintains a list of "International Delegates," which are elected government officials around the world.