

## 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?**

[Home](#) → [Model Legislation](#) → Energy, Environment, and Agriculture

**Resolution Recognizing the Large and Growing Need for Commercial Nuclear Energy and Urging the President and Congress to Make Steady Progress toward a Permanent Geologic Repository for Used Commercial Nuclear Fuel and Such Nearer-Term Priorities as Interim Fuel Storage and Research into Fuel Reprocessing and Closing the Nuclear Fuel Cycle**

Did you know the trade group for the gas industry was a corporate co-chair in 2011?

### Summary

ALEC's model Resolution Recognizes the Growing Need for Nuclear Energy and Urges the President and Congress to Make Steady Progress toward a Permanent Geologic Repository for Used Commercial Fuel and Such Nearer-Term Priorities as Interim Used Fuel Storage and Research into Fuel Reprocessing and Closing the Nuclear Fuel Cycle.

### Model Resolution

**WHEREAS**, America's 103 commercial nuclear plants generate 20 percent of the Nation's electricity with remarkably high levels of efficiency and reliability while producing zero emissions of pollutants or greenhouse gases; and

**WHEREAS**, projected U.S. electricity demand will increase by 40 percent by the 2030, requiring the nuclear industry to bring online 50 gigawatts of additional generation just to maintain nuclear energy's present 20 percent share of the electricity generation fuel mix, and

**WHEREAS**, more than a dozen nuclear utilities and consortia are actively exploring plans to pursue construction and operating licenses for more than 30 new commercial nuclear reactors in the next several years; and

**WHEREAS**, many communities and regions have expressed strong support for hosting a new nuclear reactor for the clean, safe and affordable electricity, energy security, employment opportunities and other economic benefits it could provide; and

**WHEREAS**, the Congress enacted the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 and directed the Department of Energy (DOE) to establish a program for the safe, permanent disposal of the Nation's used commercial nuclear fuel and Defense-related high-level radioactive waste in a geologic repository; and

**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States has embraced international scientific consensus and approved the recommendation of the U.S. DOE Secretary of the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada as fully suitable as a national used fuel repository and the U.S. Congress concurred by passing the Yucca Mountain Development Act of 2002, and

**WHEREAS**, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act created the Nuclear Waste Fund (NWF) to pay for the development of a waste management program financed through fees collected by nuclear utilities from their ratepayers; and

**WHEREAS**, total NWF collections from nuclear utilities to date exceed \$26 billion and less than \$9 billion has been expended on the Yucca Mountain Project, which is now

## ALEC's Corporate Board --in recent past or present

- AT&T Services, Inc.
- centerpoint360
- UPS
- Bayer Corporation
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Energy Future Holdings
- Johnson & Johnson
- Coca-Cola Company
- PhRMA
- Kraft Foods, Inc.
- Coca-Cola Co.
- Pfizer Inc.
- Reed Elsevier, Inc.
- DIAGEO
- Peabody Energy
- Intuit, Inc.
- Koch Industries, Inc.
- ExxonMobil
- Verizon
- Reynolds American Inc.
- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
- Salt River Project
- Altria Client Services, Inc.
- American Bail Coalition
- State Farm Insurance

For more on these corporations, search at [www.SourceWatch.org](http://www.SourceWatch.org).

nearly ten years past the Congressionally-mandated 1998 date for DOE to take ownership of used fuel and defense wastes, and

**WHEREAS**, DOE's failure to meet its legal, contractual responsibility to accept used fuel has caused electricity ratepayers to assume hundreds of millions of dollars in additional costs to store used fuel on-site at 72 locations in 33 states and all nuclear utilities have sued the federal government over DOE's failure; and

**WHEREAS**, DOE now indicates that the current best case scenario for opening Yucca Mountain for fuel disposal - no sooner than 2017 - would require the Department to submit an application for a construction license to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission by June 2008, which will demand stable federal appropriations to complete and submit the license application; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. government and the nuclear industry recognize the significant nearer-term security and public safety benefits from interim fuel storage at a limited number of sites and the desirability of research on closing the fuel cycle and ensuring development of advanced nuclear fuel cycle technologies, while work proceeds toward the long-term goal of opening a permanent repository; and

**WHEREAS**, various advanced fuel cycle initiatives have the potential to reduce the volume, heat and toxicity of byproducts to be disposed of in a permanent repository and also to reclaim a significant amount of the energy that remains in used fuel rods; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past four decades, approximately 3,000 shipments of used nuclear fuel have been transported safely along designated routes across 1.7 million miles of U.S. railways, highways and waterways in specially designed robust, Nuclear Regulatory Commission-licensed canisters without a single release of radioactive material; and

**WHEREAS**, communities in a number of states have expressed interest in hosting an interim storage facility, a fuel recycling center, and advanced recycling reactor, and/or an advanced fuel cycle research facility (some communities seek to host more than one facility);

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the American Legislative Exchange Council hereby urges the President and Congress to work together with the commercial nuclear industry, State and Local governments and other interested parties to encourage development of safe new nuclear plants as a key component of American fuel portfolio diversity and energy security; and

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American Legislative Exchange Council urges the President and Congress to take action to encourage the U.S. Department of Energy and provide adequate federal appropriations to allow the Department to complete work on and submit the construction license application for the Yucca Mountain repository by June 2008 so that the repository might begin accepting fuel for permanent disposal no later than 2017; and

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American Legislative Exchange Council urges the President and Congress to work together with the U.S. nuclear energy industry, with State and Local governments and other interested parties to: Encourage development of interim used fuel storage at a limited number of sites until fuel is recycled or disposed of permanently; and, Encourage research, development and demonstration projects to close the nuclear fuel cycle.

**Center for Media and Democracy's quick summary**

This is a pro-nuclear power plant resolution urging Congress to work with the commercial nuclear industry and build the controversial Yucca Mountain repository in Nevada.

**About Us and ALEC EXPOSED.** The Center for Media and Democracy reports on corporate spin and government propaganda. We are located in Madison, Wisconsin, and publish [www.PRWatch.org](http://www.PRWatch.org), [www.SourceWatch.org](http://www.SourceWatch.org), and now [www.ALECExposed.org](http://www.ALECExposed.org). For more information contact: [editor@prwatch.org](mailto:editor@prwatch.org) or 608-260-9713.