

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.

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.

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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Vegetative Filter Strips Act

Summary

The goal of this model bill is to encourage growers to voluntarily construct vegetative filter strips on land between a farm field and an area to be protected such as a stream, river, or sinkhole. This farming practice will greatly minimize movement of sediment, nutrients, and crop protection products out of the growers' fields. Additionally, this bill will provide land owners with tax relief to mitigate the production losses incurred when taking valuable farm land out of production. Ultimately, this legislation provides the necessary flexibility, economic, and environmental factors to benefit the land owners, state soil and water conservation districts (SWCD) and the general public.

Model Legislation

Section 1. {Short Title} This act shall be known and cited as the Vegetative Filter Strips Act.

Section 2. {Statement of Purpose} The Property Tax Code is amended by addition {INSERT SECTION} as follows:

(A)Any land

- (1) that is located between a farm field and an area to be protected, including but not limited to surface water, a stream, a river, or a sinkhole, and
- (2) that meets the requirements of subsection (B) of this Section shall be considered a AVegetative Filter Strip@ and valued at 1/6th of its productivity index equalized assesses value as cropland.

(B) Vegetative Filter Strips must be at least 16 feet in width and contain vegetation that

- (1) has a dense top growth;
- (2) forms a uniform ground cover;
- (3) has a heavy fibrous root system; and
- (4) tolerates pesticides used in the farm field.

(C) The County's soil and water conservation district shall assist the land owner in completing a uniform certified document as prescribed by the Department of Revenue in cooperation with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts that certifies

- (1) that the property meets the requirements established under this Section for vegetative filter strips and
- (2) the acreage or square footage of property that qualifies for assessment as a vegetative filter strip. The document shall be filed by the applicant with the Chief County Assessment Officer. The Chief County Assessment Officer shall promulgate rules concerning the filing of the document. The soil and water conservation district shall create a conservation plan for the creation of the filter strip. the Plan shall be kept on file in the soil and water conservation district office. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require any land owner to have vegetative filter strips.

(D)The Department of Agriculture in consultation with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts shall file a report concerning the effect and impact of vegetative filter strips on soil and water quality improvements to the General Assembly by {INSERT DATE}

Section 3. {Severability clause}

Section 4. {Repealer clause}

Section 5. {Effective Date}

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

Were your laws repealed?

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, www.SourceWatch.org, and now www.ALECExposed.org. For more information contact: editor@prwatch.org or 608-260-9713.