

## 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](http://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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### A Resolution on Network Neutrality

Did you know that global telecommunications company AT&T was the corporate co-chair in 2011?

**WHEREAS**, it is the mission of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) to advance the Jeffersonian principles of free markets, limited government, federalism and individual liberty, and

**WHEREAS**, ALEC recognizes the unprecedented advances a free and open Internet has fostered across all aspects of end user customers' lives, and

**WHEREAS**, the exponential growth of the Internet has flourished as a result of both the government's 'hand's off' approach, ever increasing competition, as well as fierce consumer interest, and

**WHEREAS**, regulation of the Internet may interfere with future investment and innovations benefiting the health and well-being of its end user customers, and

**WHEREAS**, Internet users should be given a choice when it comes to selecting a broadband connection that will meet their current and future needs for speed, reliability, quality of service, and capabilities not yet envisioned, and

**WHEREAS**, broadband connections, services, and applications should continue to become more affordable and accessible to all consumers, and

**WHEREAS**, companies that invest in broadband and broadband-related applications should be afforded the flexibility to explore fair and competitive business models and pricing plans for their products and services, and

**WHEREAS**, mandated net neutrality regulations would impede future capital investments in the U.S.' broadband infrastructure, which already lags behind its European and Asian counterparts, and

**WHEREAS**, according to a 2006 International Telecommunications Union (ITU) study of 2004 data, the U.S. ranked 16th in broadband penetration and could decline further as proposed net neutrality regulations places more of the cost burden onto the end user, exacerbating an already disturbing trend of a 'digital divide' within our country.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the American Legislative Exchange Council calls upon states and the Congress of the United States of America to refrain from legislation that would regulate the Internet and to maintain today's approach that allows the competitive marketplace to drive broadband and broadband-related applications development and deployment free from governmental regulation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that ALEC endorse the following principles, that consumers should:

- (1) receive meaningful information regarding their broadband service plans;
- (2) have access to their choice of legal Internet content subject to the limits on bandwidth and quality of service of their service plan;
- (3) run applications of their choice, subject to the needs of law enforcement and the limits on bandwidth and quality of service of their service plans, as long as they do not harm the provider's network or interfere with other consumers' use of the broadband service; and
- (4) be permitted to attach any devices they choose to their broadband connection at the consumer's premise, so long as they operate within the limits on bandwidth and quality of service of their service plans and do not harm the provider's network, interfere with other consumers' use of the broadband service, or enable theft of services.

Adopted by the Telecommunications and Information Task Force at the Spring Task Force Summit, April 28, 2007. Approved by the ALEC Board of Directors, May 2007.

**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.