

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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Resolution in Support of Expansion of Foreign Markets for America's Small Businesses

Summary

This resolution endorses efforts of the United States that are designed to enhance and develop foreign markets for goods and services, through enumerated programs.

Model Resolution

WHEREAS, small businesses are the foundation from which America builds its economic strength; and

WHEREAS, there are over 7 million small businesses in the United States, and America's small businesses employ over 85 percent of all American workers; and

WHEREAS, this body endorses measures designed to ease increase the success of small businesses, by easing the regulatory burden on the small business community through such legislative initiatives as the model state Regulatory Flexibility Act; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 American small businesses export their goods or services for consumption outside the borders of the United States; and

WHEREAS, workers in export-related jobs receive wages 13 to 18 percent higher than the national average and exports of goods and services from the United States support nearly 12 million domestic jobs; and

WHEREAS, one of every five domestic manufacturing jobs is closely tied to exportation, and 25 percent of American agricultural products are sold to foreign markets; and

WHEREAS, the United States government has numerous export promotion and finance programs designed to benefit local businesses, such as those offered by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Commercial Service, the U.S. Export-Import Bank, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service; and

WHEREAS, these programs work to develop foreign markets for goods and services and provide financing for export sales at little or no risk to the domestic business entity;

BE IT RESOLVED that as economic growth and job security can be found through the development of new markets overseas, the legislature of the state of [insert state] endorses the efforts of the United States government to support the export of goods and services by the small businesses of our state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each Member of [insert state]'s Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by ALEC's Trade & Transportation Task Force at the Annual Meeting July 30, 2004. Approved by full ALEC Board of Directors August, 2004.

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

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.

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.