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ALEC

AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL

Limited Government, Free Markets, Federalism

Exposed

By the Center for
Media and Democracy
www.prwatch.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?**

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.

NEWS PUBLICATIONS MEMBERS MODEL LEGISLATION

Resolution Supporting Final Ratification of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement

WHEREAS, the United States and the Republic of Korea signed the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) in June of 2007; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has committed to passing the KORUS FTA; and

WHEREAS, the KORUS FTA is still awaiting Congressional approval; and

WHEREAS, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) policy on free trade claims that: "the imposition of artificial barriers to free and open trade...are deterrents to American economic interests;" and

WHEREAS, if approved, the KORUS FTA would be the most significant U.S. FTA in more than 16 years; and

WHEREAS, protectionism is gaining momentum around the world, passing the KORUS FTA at this time would send a strong signal to U.S. trading partners that America's historic commitment to free trade and economic liberalization remains strong; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Korea is the 15th largest economy in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Korea is the United States' seventh largest export market and is a major customer for goods such as civil aircraft, electronics and technology, industrial machinery, plastics, chemicals, agricultural products including beef, and services and

WHEREAS, an FTA between the Republic of Korea and the United States would make 94% of all trade between the two countries duty-free within three years and would eliminate most remaining tariffs within the next decade; and

WHEREAS, lower tariffs would increase demand for U.S. exports in the Republic of Korea; and

WHEREAS, the KORUS FTA would strengthen our economic and strategic alliance with the Republic of Korea; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. deficit is growing, and the KORUS FTA will provide a private sector led stimulus by increasing exports and will contribute to America's economic recovery at no cost to U.S. taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, that the Republic of Korea, has finalized an agreement with the

European Union (EU) which is expected to go into effect in July 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the agreement with the EU will put U.S. market share and jobs in industrial and agriculture sectors at a significant competitive disadvantage; and

WHEREAS, this trade agreement will contribute up to \$12 billion to the economy; and

WHEREAS, China's trade with South Korea has been expanding rapidly, necessitating an American response to avoid being left behind; and

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that ALEC applauds the support of the current and previous presidential administrations for the KORUS FTA and their effort to negotiate and shape the agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ALEC calls on the U.S. Congress to approve the United States-Korean Free Trade Agreement without further delay for the benefit of the United States economy and national security.

Adopted by the International Relations Task Force at States & Nation Policy Summit, December 3, 2010. Approved by ALEC Board of Directors, January 7, 2011.

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.