

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 → Tax and Fiscal Policy ←

Resolution Urging Congress to Update Tax Treatment of Cell Phones

WHEREAS, in 1989 Congress passed a law treating cell phones or similar telecommunications equipment as "listed property" that an employer must report as income on an employee' W-2 unless the employee satisfies onerous rules documenting the cell phone or equipment is used for business more than 50% of the time; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) confirmed this tax treatment of employer-provided cell phones or similar telecommunications equipment as a "fringe benefit" in a 2005 technical guide; and

WHEREAS, it is expensive and difficult for employees to maintain logs listing every call, the time of such calls and the purpose of such calls; and

WHEREAS, the specter of IRS agents continuing to raise the issue of cell phone calls and documentation on audits has prompted many employers to stop providing cell phones to employees but instead give them taxable cell phone allowances; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Code places no similar rules governing personal calls made on land-line telephones; and

WHEREAS, there significant advances in the reliability, versatility, ubiquity, sizing, and pricing of cell phone and other telecommunications technologies in the last 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Code's treatment of cell phones and similar telecommunications equipment is outdated, does not correspond to technological advancement in wireless, fails to reflect the integration of wireless technology in American businesses, and is ill-suited to the 21st Century American economy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Legislative Exchange Council urges the United States Congress to repeal the Tax Code's treatment of cell phones and similar telecommunications equipment as listed property and its burdensome reporting requirements for employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, copies of this resolution will be distributed to all governors and members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives, and to the Commissioner of the IRS.

Passed Unanimously

Did you know that the Evergreen Freedom Foundation-- which is connected to the Kochs-- was the corporate co-chair in 2011?"

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

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- Salt River Project
- Altria Client Services, Inc.
- American Bail Coalition
- State Farm Insurance

For more on these corporations, search at www.SourceWatch.org.

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