

## 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.
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- Energy Future Holdings
- Johnson & Johnson
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- PhRMA
- Kraft Foods, Inc.
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- Intuit, Inc.
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- 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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## Resolution Urging Congress to Eliminate Discriminatory State and Local Taxes on Automobile Renters

### Summary

This resolution encourages Congress to eliminate discriminatory State and Local Taxes on automobile renters by passing H.R. 2453, the End Discriminatory State Taxes on Automobile Renters Act of 2007 (EDSTAR).

### Model Resolution

**WHEREAS**, since 1976, 42 states and the District of Columbia have enacted more than 100 car rental excise taxes, which are beyond typical sales taxes, resulting in car rental customers paying more than \$6 billion since 1990; and

**WHEREAS**, the National League of Cities in its May 2006 publication of TAXING PROBLEMS: Municipalities and America's Flawed System of Public Finance recognized this unfair taxing burden on specific economic sectors and among its suggested solutions stated that "Governments should impose equitable and fair revenue burdens on individuals, corporations, communities, sectors, income classes and generations"; and

**WHEREAS**, the revenues from the vast majority of these taxes have gone to pay for unrelated projects such as sports stadiums, convention centers, performing arts centers, art museums, police and fire stations and public transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, state and local officials have rationalized these excise taxes because they believe the majority of these taxes will be paid by out-of-towners, thereby interfering with interstate commerce; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress has the constitutional power to regulate commerce among the states and has given protection to industries that are a part of interstate commerce – such as railroads, airlines, trucking and buses – from state and local governments that wished to discriminately tax those industries; and

**WHEREAS**, representatives Rick Boucher (D-VA) and Chris Cannon (R-UT), along with six other original bi-partisan co-sponsors, have introduced H.R. 2453 that would prohibit state and local governments prospectively from discriminately taxing car renters, based upon the federal law that protects other industries mentioned above; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a growing coalition – the Coalition Against Discriminatory Car Rental Excise Taxes – of business and consumer organizations supporting H.R. 2453. The coalition consists of Alamo Rent A Car, the American Car Rental Association, American Society of Travel Agents, Americans for Tax Reform, Avis Rent-A-Car, Budget Rent-A-Car, Dollar Rent A Car, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, The Hertz Corporation, National Car Rental, National Business Travel Association, National Consumers League, National Limousine Association, Thrifty Car Rental, and Truck Renting and Leasing Association; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), according to the Statement of Principles on Local Option Taxes believes that when raising revenue, government should ensure that no one is disproportionately burdened

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ALEC urges Congress to pass H.R. 2453 to end discriminatory excise taxes on all car renters, 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.

*Adopted by the Tax and Fiscal Policy Task Force at the Spring Task Force Summit, May 17, 2008. Approved by the ALEC Board of Directors June 2008.*

**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.