DID YOU KNOW? Corporations VOTED to adopt this. Through ALEC, global companies work as "equals" in "union" with politicians to write laws to govern your life. Big Business has "a VOICE and a VOTE," according to newly exposed documents. DO YOU?

Model Resolution

ALEC's model resolution on unilateral trade sanctions opposes the enactment of state and local laws imposing unilateral trade sanctions as an instrument of foreign policy.

 Whereas United State's prosperity is tied to our participation in the global economy; and

 Whereas the imposition of artificial barriers to free and open trade -- such as unilateral trade sanctions -- are deterrents to American economic interests; and

 Whereas the imposition of unilateral trade sanctions on other nations puts American companies at a disadvantage against overseas competitors; and

 Whereas unilateral trade sanctions are ineffective and cause others to question the reliability of both America and its companies, and in the long run, causes disruptions in the U.S. economy; and

 Whereas it is the constitutional-vested role of the U.S. federal government to conduct American foreign policy, including the establishment of consistent ground rules for economic relationships with other countries; and

 Whereas the effective U.S. foreign policy requires a broad range of political, strategic, diplomatic and economic tools not available to state and local government; and

 Whereas the imposition of state and local unilateral trade sanctions are counter productive and ineffective, having little or no impact on the sanctioned country but mainly impact U.S. companies, their employees, and the local economy; and

 Whereas state and local sanctions adversely affect U.S. economic interests by stranding assets of U.S. companies operating in sanctioned countries; and

 Whereas a report released by the president's export council shows that in 1995 alone, sanctions imposed by the U.S. government reduced our country's exports by $15 billion to $19 billion, translating to 200,000 to 250,000 jobs for U.S. workers in the export sector; and

 Whereas the policy of constructive engagement and dialogue are powerful tools for change leading to greater personal and political freedom; and

 Whereas when sanctions are deemed appropriate, the United States should make every effort to do so multilaterally, not unilaterally.

 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the state and local governments should not adopt unilateral sanctions as a foreign policy tool, instead encouraging American engagement as a key tool for promoting freedom and democracy abroad. States and localities should actively promote engagement at all levels -- political, economic, charitable, religious.

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.