

## 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](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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### Travel Agent Tax Fairness Act

#### Summary

This legislation establishes a sensible framework to eliminate confusion and controversy in the imposition of hotel occupancy taxes on services provided by travel agents and other travel intermediaries. The legislation clarifies that a service which helps travelers to research, compare, and book hotel reservations is not subject to those taxes that are imposed on hotel operators for the provision of a room. By clarifying that taxes imposed as a hotel tax or occupancy tax shall apply only to the amounts received by hotel operators, this legislation will promote continued growth in travel and tourism.

#### Legislation

**Section 1. {Title}** This Act may be cited as the "Travel Agent Tax Fairness Act."

**Section 2. {Legislative Findings}** The Legislature finds that:

(A) Travel agents and online travel companies provide valuable services to travelers, showing comparisons of rates and amenities offered by multiple, competing hotel operators.

(B) These facilitation services are distinct from the provision of a room by the hotel where the traveler eventually stays.

(C) Travelers rely on travel agents and online travel companies to research, compare, and book reservations.

(D) Hotel occupancy taxes should not be imposed on services provided by travel agents and online travel companies.

#### Section 3. {General Rule}

(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any tax imposed on or collected in relation to any transient accommodations, whether imposed as a hotel tax, occupancy tax, or otherwise, shall apply solely to amounts received by the operator of a hotel, motel, tavern, inn, tourist cabin, tourist camp, or other place in which rooms are furnished to the public.

(B) Under no circumstances shall a travel agent or intermediary be deemed an operator of a hotel, motel, tavern, inn, tourist cabin, tourist camp, or other place in which rooms are furnished to the public unless such travel agent or intermediary actually operates such a facility.

(C) This section is intended to clarify that taxes imposed as a hotel tax, occupancy

tax, or otherwise, shall apply solely to amounts received by operators, as enacted in statutes authorizing such taxes.

Did you know that global telecommunications company AT&T was the corporate co-chair in 2011?

**Section 4. {Effective Date}** This Act will become effective immediately upon signature by the Governor.

*Adopted by ALEC's Telecommunications & Information Technology Task Force at the ALEC Annual Meeting on August 6, 2010. Approved by ALEC Board of Directors, September 19, 2010.*

**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.