

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.

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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Fairness in Statute of Limitation Reopeners Resolution

Summary

This Resolution urges **{Insert State}** to limit the reopening of statutes of limitation without the application of appropriate standards in product liability litigation.

Model Resolution

From CMD: Was your state inserted?

Section 1. {Short Title} This shall be known as the Fairness In Statute of Limitation Reopeners Resolution.

Section 2.

WHEREAS tort law recognizes and embraces the concept of a statute of limitations establishing a time after which actions may not be brought for damages arising out of an act or course of conduct; and

WHEREAS legislatures are sometimes urged to enact special provisions designating a period of time during which actions otherwise barred by the expiration of the applicable statute of limitations may be brought; and

WHEREAS special provisions are sought by a potential class of litigants notwithstanding the fact that manufacturers of products alleged to have caused injury to such a class have created a fund intended to compensate eligible claimants in lieu of litigation; and

WHEREAS media coverage of products or governmental policies which allegedly resulted in injuries to members of a potential class of litigants is often skewed in favor of compensation whether adequate evidence of alleged wrongdoing in fact exists; and

WHEREAS legislation may be enacted on the basis of exigencies which operate to seriously penalize businesses or industries without any showing of inappropriate behavior so that such entities cannot obtain liability insurance coverage at a reasonable cost, thus seriously weakening their economic well-being; and

WHEREAS legislation should only be enacted where evidence supports a finding that a manufacturer had or should have had information that a product was either actually or potentially capable of injury, of which the public was unaware, and the manufacturer withheld said information; and

WHEREAS in complex society where the reach of application of new technologies sometimes exceeds the grasp of anticipation of the consequences thereof, injuries occur for which no one can be said to be legally responsible, so that many must, to a significant extent, be responsible for themselves;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that **{Insert State}** supports the principle of limiting the reopening of statutes of limitation unless appropriate standards are applied to such proposed tolling of such statute for purposes of allowing actions to be brought; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in instances where statutes are reopened, any award to a litigant or class of litigants shall be limited solely to economic damages; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the **{Insert upper legislative body/lower legislative body as appropriate}** and to the Office of the Governor.

ALEC's Sourcebook of American State Legislation 1996

Did you know that Victor Schwartz--a lawyer who represents companies in product litigation--was the corporate co-chair in 2011?

From CMD: This would limit recovery for emotional as well as punitive damages.

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.