

**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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**Establishing an American Legislative Exchange Council Democracy and Governance Program**

**WHEREAS**, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) was established to advance the Jeffersonian principles of free markets, limited government, federalism, and individual liberty; to conduct policy making programs that unite members of the public and private sectors in a dynamic partnership; to support research, policy development, and dissemination activities; and to prepare the next generation of political leadership through educational programs that promote the principles of Jeffersonian democracy, which are necessary for a free society; AND

**WHEREAS**, the promotion of democracy and governance is a core function of the United States government as evidenced by the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** that has actively promoted democracy worldwide for more than 40 years; AND

**WHEREAS**, **USAID sponsors** numerous democracy and governance exchanges between emerging nations and the United States, including such organizations as the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), to strengthen rule of law and respect for human rights, to promote more genuine and competitive elections and political processes, to increase development of politically active societies, to facilitate more transparent and accountable governance, and to promote free and independent media; AND

**WHEREAS**, studies conducted in 2006 and 2007 found USAID to have a significant, positive impact on democratic development across 165 countries and concluded that in any given year an investment of \$10 million of USAID Democracy and Governance funding produces a five-fold (500%) increase in the amount of democratic change over what the average country would otherwise be expected to achieve;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the ALEC International Relations Task Force that ALEC establish its own democracy and governance program for the purposes of creating legislative exchanges with state and provincial representatives from emerging democracies around the world and initiate an annual democracy and governance seminar for the promotion of the ideals of freedom, open markets and the creation of better legislation worldwide; AND

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the ALEC International Relations Task Force that the establishment of this program commence in 2010 or as soon as is practicable; AND

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the pursuit of grants, scholarships, corporate donations and international exchange program sponsorship and funding may be launched simultaneously as well.

**CMD's Quick Summary:**

According to a December 10, 2009 press release, Hawaii State Representative Gene Ward introduced this resolution that creates a "Democracy and Governance Program" which, it states conclusively, "will be funded by US State Department and USAID programs . . ." He calls himself "one of the founding members of the International Relations Task Force of ALEC . . ."

No mention of funds received from USAID was noted in ALEC's IRS Form 1099s in years 2007-2009, the years for which they are available from Guidestar in 2011. If ALEC did receive this funding, then an ALEC program is using taxpayer funds for its activities.

Did you know that **Reynolds American--** one of the biggest tobacco companies in the world-- was the corporate co-chair in 2011?

**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.