



By the Center for **Media and Democracy** www.prwatch.org

Did you know the

trade group for the

ALEC EXPOSED

"ALEC" has long been a secretive collaboration between Big Business and "conservative" politicians. Behind closed doors, they ahostwrite "model" bills to be introduced in state capitols across the country. This agenda–underwritten by global corporationsincludes 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?

Home \rightarrow Model Legislation \rightarrow Energy, Environment, and Agriculture

ALEC Electricity Transmission Principles

Mission

gas industry was a Energy Production and Transmission are critical components of our nation's economic corporate co-chair infrastructure. For economic growth to continue, the expansion and protection of our in 2011? electricity transmission infrastructure system must be a priority of the states and natio To that end, the state governments and federal government must provide regulatory flexibility that recognizes state sovereignty and individual property rights.

Purpose

To ensure that the electricity transmission system is coordinated in a manner that satisfies current needs and future growth, and that provides energy consumers with the necessary levels of system security, overall reliability, and access to the most economic and diverse sources of electricity.

Introduction

The U.S.'s electricity grid is one of the largest machines ever built by man. Connecting 150,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines and power plants, the grid is monitored by 10 regional electric reliability councils, managed by more than 140 control areas, owned by numerous utility and transmission companies, and used by utilities and a growing number of independent power producers.¹ Additional regulations and oversight come from state public utility commissions and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The Northeast blackout of 2003 showed how important the nation's transmission infrastructure is to the country's economy and security. Transmission system improvements, including: siting more wires, using innovative circuit breakers and transformer technology, and coordinating communications and monitoring among grid operators have the potential to improve the efficiency and reliability of the grid.

Reliable electricity supplies depends upon significant improvement of the transmission grid. Interstate and intrastate transmission siting authority and procedures must be addressed to facilitate the construction of needed new infrastructure.

ALEC Electricity Transmission Principles

1. Siting Authority

Interstate siting authority: States should work together either through interstate siting commissions or similar agreements to facilitate the construction of interstate transmission. The creation, role and functions of regional siting authorities should be site and situation specific. If a region chooses to have interstate siting authority, it is recommended that all states in the region participate and have an equitable role in policymaking. Regions may determine not to have a regional siting authority. The federal role should be as the mediator of last resort.

Intrastate siting authority: There should be a clearly defined state-level authority for siting. The state authority should have a streamlined permitting procedure including clearly defined timetables for each stage in the process. The process should be transparent, impartial, and encourage public participation, but avoid being held hostage by special interest groups.

Companies and the state should consider alternatives to siting in new areas, including using existing right-of-ways, upgrading existing lines, and investing in communications and grid technology that allows owners to operate existing lines more effectively. Technology options should never be mandated and the free market should be the principle determinant of which products reach the marketplace.

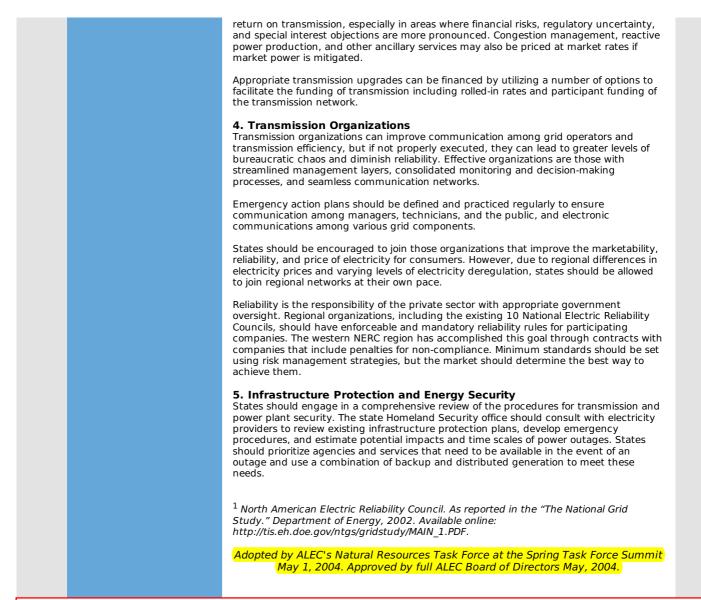
2. Eminent Domain

The state siting authority should encourage the private or publicly owned facilities to provide market based fair and equitable compensation to willing sellers and incentives to neighborhoods to facilitate the siting process. Individual property rights are considered paramount and the use of eminent domain is an option of last resort that should only be used in cases to strictly meet the definition of the "public good."

The "public good" should be clearly defined statutorily as the most efficient, cost effective path, to balance projected transmission needs with neighborhood concerns. The states should engage in a comprehensive review of their eminent domain laws to ensure that property rights are clearly defined and protected and that fair compensation is provided for any takings.

3. Transmission Investment

The state siting process should allow the market to provide incentives for increased infrastructure investment. Grid owners should be allowed to recoup adequate rates of



From CMD: This document recognizes that state level electricity regulation is inadequate but opposes federal regulation. It allows utilities to expand the grid, produce more power and transmit it. Wind businesses tend to support expansion.

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.