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ALEC

AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL

Limited Government, Free Markets, Federalism

Exposed

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

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.

NEWS PUBLICATIONS MEMBERS MODEL

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?**

Resolution to Strengthen US-Pakistan Economic Cooperation

WHEREAS, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) policy on Free Trade acknowledges "the imposition of artificial barriers to free and open trade...are deterrents to American economic interests."; and

WHEREAS, the current Administration described Pakistan as "one of the most critical nations in the world"; and

WHEREAS, success in the battle against the violent radicalism that threatens Pakistan's stability and US strategic interests in the region requires a strong civil society, private-sector employment and sustainable economic growth; and

WHEREAS, ALEC commends the current administration's recognition that expanded trade and economic cooperation would complement security efforts the United States and Pakistan have launched in the region; and

WHEREAS, US tariffs on textiles unfairly undermine Pakistan's ability to compete in the American market; and

WHEREAS, exports to the United States often bring five times the capital to developing countries than that received through direct investment by American companies, remittances from family members abroad, charitable donations and foreign aid combined, making this an efficient way to foster economic growth; and

WHEREAS, promoting economic strength in developing economies results in the creation of new markets for US goods; and

WHEREAS, the current American tariff system tends to favor goods produced by more developed economies and exacts high tariffs on clothes, shoes and other "light" goods produced by less developed economies; and

WHEREAS, Pakistan faces average tariff rates that are 10-20 times higher than those imposed on products from more wealthy countries and is subject to higher actual tariff penalties than those on goods from countries like the UK, France, Russia and Saudi Arabia; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in Congress which authorizes the President to designate an area within Pakistan as a Reconstruction Opportunity Zone (ROZ) and proclaim duty-free treatment from certain articles (including certain textile and apparel articles) that are imported to the United States from Pakistan; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of ROZs in Pakistan will spur sustainable economic growth in the region thus promoting liberty, limited government, freedom, and free markets in this nation—all of which will help to thwart the

recurring threat of extremist violence in Pakistan's most volatile regions; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of ROZs will allow for the free flow of goods between these sections of Pakistan and the United States, thus benefitting American businesses which will be able to enter the market without government hindrance;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ALEC calls on Congress to use trade policy as a tool to promote stability and counter radicalism in Pakistan by enacting legislation to create ROZs in Pakistan that would allow certain goods produced in the following areas to enter the US duty free: Bahawalpur, D.G. Khan, Jhang and Muzafargarh in Punjab; Badin, Jacobabad, Khairpur, Sanghar, Tharparkar and Thatta in Sindh; Bunir, D.I. Khan, Hangu, Lower Dir, Swat, Upper Dir and South Waziristan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; and Gwadar, Kalat, Kharan and Sibi in Balochistan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legislation passed by Congress include among duty free imports from Pakistan, cotton goods as these products account for more than 27% of all US imports from Pakistan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legislation passed by Congress omit labor-related criteria that would deter companies from investing in Pakistan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the U.S. Senate Finance and the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committees, to the U.S. Trade Representative, to the Secretary of Commerce, and to the Secretary of State.

Adopted by the International Relations Task Force, August 5, 2010.

Approved by the 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, www.SourceWatch.org, and now www.ALECexposed.org. For more information contact: editor@prwatch.org or 608-260-9713.

Center for Media and Democracy's quick summary

From the older resolutions 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 Free Trade Agreement, 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 offshored 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 on the International Relations Task Force of ALEC. ALEC has a trade resolution specifically advancing a newer tobacco product called *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.