

See Center for Media and Democracy's quick summary at bottom

# ALEC

AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL

Limited Government, Free Markets, Federalism

NEWS PUBLICATIONS MEMBERS MODEL

## Exposed

By the Center for  
Media and Democracy  
[www.prwatch.org](http://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](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?**

### Resolution to Combat Counterfeit Pharmaceuticals

**WHEREAS**, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) recognizes the importance of protecting intellectual property (IP) rights including patented pharmaceuticals regardless of national borders; and

**WHEREAS**, protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPR) are crucial to the future of the innovation-based economy; and

**WHEREAS**, intellectual property infringement can undermine our national and economic security; and

**WHEREAS**, violations of intellectual property rights, ambiguities in the law and lack of enforcement create uncertainty in the marketplace and legal system and undermine consumer trust; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Administration released the 2010 Joint Strategic Plan on Intellectual Property Enforcement highlighting the importance of IPRs to the U.S. economy and pledging to work with U.S. trading partners and within international organizations to better enforce American intellectual property rights in the global economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Administration pledged to initiate a comprehensive review of current efforts in support of U.S. businesses that have difficulty enforcing their intellectual property rights in overseas markets; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. intellectual property is worth an estimated \$5.5 trillion, more than the GDP of any other country, and IP-related industries account for more than half of all U.S. exports, helping to drive 40% of America's domestic growth; and

**WHEREAS**, the yearly cost of counterfeit pharmaceuticals to consumers and to pharmaceutical companies, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), in 2010 will be \$75 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, hundreds of thousands of people die each year due to counterfeit drugs without the correct active ingredient or accurate dosage; and

**WHEREAS**, less than 1 percent of counterfeit pharmaceuticals worldwide are sold within the United States, making this issue an international concern; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce highlights the critical role IP protection plays in encouraging innovation and creativity, which fuel America's competitiveness and help us remain the world's leading innovator; and

**WHEREAS**, protection against counterfeit pharmaceuticals will help to improve IP rights, allowing companies to compete and thrive in the global economy; and

**WHEREAS**, IP-based industries, such as pharmaceuticals, employ 18 million Americans whose salaries averaged about 40 percent higher than jobs in non-IP-based industries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement, a new international framework to enforce intellectual property rights, looks to be signed in 2010 by the United States, Canada, the European Union, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, South Korea, Singapore, and Switzerland;



**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that ALEC supports US government efforts to improve transparency in intellectual property policy making and during international trade negotiations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that ALEC calls on the Departments of State and Justice to emphasize protection of intellectual property rights among its embassy and law enforcement personnel overseas providing guidance to and enabling them to serve as effective advocates and enforcers of intellectual property rights; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that ALEC encourages the administration to work with Congress to enact legislation that expands the IP attaché to additional countries abroad, as needed; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that ALEC supports efforts by the US Congress and the Administration to examine the problem of counterfeiting pharmaceuticals and to take appropriate legislative and regulatory action to make it more difficult for rogue websites to operate; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that ALEC calls on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ensure that pharmaceutical companies have the resources they need to implement effective anti-counterfeiting technologies; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that ALEC commits to creating partnerships with likeminded government officials and leaders in countries where counterfeit pharmaceuticals are widespread in an effort to combat their proliferation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that ALEC commits to working with these international partners to facilitate the drafting of laws that effectively discourage the production and dissemination of counterfeit pharmaceuticals and that promote consistent enforcement of already existing laws; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that ALEC calls on the Office of the United States Trade Representative to ensure that trade agreements into which the United States enters will protect the integrity of pharmaceuticals around the world; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, to the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, to the Secretary of State, to the Attorney General, to the Secretary of Commerce, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, to the U.S. Trade Representative, to the Director of the FBI, and to the Director of The United States Patent and Trademark Office.

*Adopted by the International Relations Task Force at States & Nation Policy Summit, December 3, 2010. Approved by ALEC Board of Directors, January 7, 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.

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

## 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.