

## 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?**

[Home](#) → [Model Legislation](#) → [International Relations](#)

### Resolution on Unilateral Trade Sanctions

#### Model Resolution

ALEC's model resolution on unilateral trade sanctions opposes the enactment of state and local laws imposing unilateral trade sanctions as an instrument of foreign policy.

{Title, enacting clause, etc.}

**WHEREAS** United State's prosperity is tied to our participation in the global economy; and

**WHEREAS** the imposition of artificial barriers to free and open trade -- such as unilateral trade sanctions -- are deterrents to American economic interests; and

**WHEREAS** the imposition of unilateral trade sanctions on other nations puts American companies at a disadvantage against overseas competitors; and

**WHEREAS** unilateral trade sanctions are ineffective and cause others to question the reliability of both America and its companies, and in the long run, causes disruptions in the U.S. economy; and

**WHEREAS** it is the constitutional-vested role of the U.S. federal government to conduct American foreign policy, including the establishment of consistent ground rules for economic relationships with other countries; and

**WHEREAS** the effective U.S. foreign policy requires a broad range of political, strategic, diplomatic and economic tools not available to state and local government; and

**WHEREAS** the imposition of state and local unilateral trade sanctions are counter productive and ineffective, having little or no impact on the sanctioned country but mainly impact U.S. companies, their employees, and the local economy; and

**WHEREAS** state and local sanctions adversely affect U.S. economic interests by stranding assets of U.S. companies operating in sanctioned countries; and

**WHEREAS** a report released by the president's export council shows that in 1995 alone, sanctions imposed by the U.S. government reduced our country's exports by \$15 billion to \$19 billion, translating to 200,000 to 250,000 jobs for U/S/ workers in the export sector; and

**WHEREAS** the policy of constructive engagement and dialogue are powerful tools for change leading to greater personal and political freedom; and

**WHEREAS** when sanctions are deemed appropriate, the United States should make every effort to do so multilaterally, not unilaterally.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the state and local governments should not adopt unilateral sanctions as a foreign policy tool, instead encouraging American engagement as a key tool for promoting freedom and democracy abroad. States and localities should actively promote engagement at all levels -- political, economic, charitable, religious.

*Adopted by ALEC's Trade & Transportation Task Force at the Annual Meeting August 21, 1998. Approved by full ALEC Board of Directors September, 1998.*

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.

## 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.