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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 L

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 Urging Congress to Pass the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP)

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 Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) is a highly sophisticated agreement that will create a free trade partnership between the United States, New Zealand, Chile, Singapore, Brunei, Australia, Vietnam, and Peru; and

WHEREAS, the TPP is structured to allow for and, indeed, encourage expansion to other likeminded partner nations; and

WHEREAS, the TPP is an all-encompassing trade agreement that includes liberalization on all tariff lines with standards higher than the World Trade Organization (WTO) for competition, intellectual property rights, government procurement, and dispute settlement; and

WHEREAS, the Trans-Pacific region accounts for nearly 60 percent of world GDP and almost half of all global trade; and

WHEREAS, U.S. exports to Asia-Pacific increased by 63 percent in the last five years; and

WHEREAS, the TPP will boost exports from the United States by up to \$25 billion annually, helping to shore up the American domestic economy on the heels of a recession; and

WHEREAS, a 2008 University of Michigan study estimates that an Asia-Pacific trade agreement would increase real U.S. income by 1.2 percent; and

WHEREAS, successful conclusion of the TPP negotiations will provide economically significant new market access opportunities for America's workers, farmers, ranchers, service providers and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the TPP will integrate the American economy across the Pacific Rim, fully engaging the United States both economically and politically across four continents; and

WHEREAS, the TPP will reduce the risk of exclusionary Asian trade blocs such as Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), and the East Asia Summit (EAS); and

WHEREAS, the TPP will give the United States more engagement and

leadership in Asian economies, countering the growing power of the People's Republic of China; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration supports the expedited approval of the TPP as one-part of its strategy to increase competitiveness and employment in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the TPP will be an impetus for further bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, to the benefit of the United States, in the Asia-Pacific region;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ALEC calls on Congress to support negotiations for a comprehensive, high-standard and ambitious Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement that will provide a platform for regional trade and economic integration; 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 Ways & Means Committees, to the U.S. Trade Representative, and to the Secretary of Commerce.

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.

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.