

See Center for Media and Democracy' quick summary at bottom

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 Urging Congress to Pass the Panama Trade Promotion Agreement (TPA)

WHEREAS, The United States and Panama signed a trade promotion agreement on June 28, 2007, and it was approved by Panama on July 11, 2007; and

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 Panama TPA will provide duty-free access to markets providing immediate elimination of duties on 88 percent of current U.S. trade, which if the Panama TPA had been signed in 2008, would have saved U.S. exporters over \$170 million in tariff fees; and

WHEREAS, Under the Caribbean Basin Initiative, almost 96% of all Panamanian exports already enter the United States duty-free; and

WHEREAS, the comprehensive trade promotion agreement between the United States and Panama will encourage expansion and diversification of trade, eliminating trade barriers and facilitating cross-border movements of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, The Martinelli Administration, Panama's democratically elected government, is committed to expanding Panama's commercial ties with the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the U.S.-Panama TPA is designed to both strengthen civil society in Panama and open economic opportunities for U.S. producers; and

WHEREAS, imports from Panama account for \$379 million a figure which is up by 3.8% (\$14 million) from 2007 and up 17% over the last 14 years, and exports to Panama are at \$4.9 billion, which is up by 30.7% (\$1.1 billion) from 2007 and by 283% from 1994 (the year prior to Uruguay Round); and

WHEREAS, the United States is Panama's largest trading partner as of 2009, representing 39.2% of Panama's exports and 29.7% of its imports; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the U.S. had a trade surplus with Panama totaling \$4.3 billion, the eighth largest trade surplus maintained with any U.S. global trading partner; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Panama received more U.S. foreign direct investment (FDI) as a percentage of GDP than any other country in Latin America and more U.S. FDI than the rest of the Central American countries combined;

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.

and

WHEREAS, the U.S.-Panama TPA will enhance Panama's legal framework and business environment, which are important to encourage investments and protect intellectual property rights, increase transparency and strengthen protections for workers and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the U.S.-Panama TPA would expand opportunities for American workers, consumers, farmers, manufacturers, ranchers, investors and service providers; and

WHEREAS, the government procurement provisions of the U.S.-Panama TPA guarantee non-discriminatory access for U.S. goods, services, and suppliers to a broad range of public sector entities in Panama, such as the Panama Canal Authority; and

WHEREAS, Panama is undertaking a \$5.25 billion expansion of the Panama Canal that will double the Canal's capacity by its completion in 2014 and allow access to vessels twice the size of current Panamax ships, aiding the transit of larger U.S. military ships and enhancing the productivity, reliability and efficiency of a very important U.S. trade route; and

WHEREAS, the U.S.-Panama TPA levels the playing field and enhances competition, moving the United States-Panama commercial relationship beyond a one-way preference to full partnership and reciprocal commitments; and

WHEREAS, the U.S.-Panama TPA increases the protection and promotion of workers' rights and environmental standards as part of the provisions on the May 10 agreements; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement establishes a legal framework for US and Panamanian investors, providing greater legal stability and security for U.S. investors in general; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ALEC calls on the President of the United States to send the U.S. – Panama TPA implementing legislation to the U.S. Congress for a vote; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ALEC calls on the U.S. Congress to ratify the U.S. – Panama TPA and the President of the United States to sign the U.S.-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement into law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House, to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, 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, to the Secretary of Commerce, to the Secretary of Labor, and to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

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.