

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.

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?

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Did you know the NRA--the National Rifle Association--was the corporate co-chair in 2011?

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FIRST AMENDMENT IN ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the First Amendment prohibits the state from punishing speech it disapproves of or disagrees with; and,

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the American Legislative Exchange Council to advance the Jeffersonian principles of individual liberty, limited government, free markets, and federalism; and,

WHEREAS, legislation punishing speech chills uninhibited public debate and undermines the very purpose of the First Amendment; and,

From CMD: ALEC opposes state laws against "false statements" in political campaigns....

WHEREAS, several states have enacted "false statement" laws for political speech that interfere with constitutionally protected speech and establishes the state as arbiter of what can and cannot be said in political campaigns; and,

WHEREAS, free and robust debate cannot thrive if directed by the government; and,

From CMD: But that litigation remedy is unlikely to affect the election impact of maliciously false statements....

WHEREAS, defamation laws already exist to protect the public from egregiously false statements made in campaigns; and,

WHEREAS, ALEC is an important, influential voice in the promotion of policies true to the Jeffersonian principles of free markets, limited government, federalism and individual liberty.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) supports the First Amendment in political speech, and opposes all efforts to chill the speech of citizens through false statements laws.

Approved by the Public Safety and Elections Task Force on July 17, 2009.
Approved by the ALEC Board of Directors on August 27, 2009.

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.

This Resolution demonstrates an extreme approach to "free speech" that ALEC corporations take in regards to political communications. This Resolution is a response to "false statement" laws passed by states to help voters make an informed decision by banning campaign ads that are untrue. Misleading attack ads have proven effectiveness, are difficult to counter, and the presence of lies in the political debate is bad for democracy. This Resolution alleges that defamation laws are sufficient to guard against false speech, but meeting the legal standard of "defamation" is very difficult and would not cover most of the misleading political ads targeted by "false statement" laws.