

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.

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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Resolution on Secondary Boycotts

Summary

ALEC's model resolution highlights the impact and problems of secondary boycotts and calls for Congress to amend the Railway Labor Act to include rail and airline unions in prohibiting this unfair labor practice.

Model Resolution

WHEREAS, in 1947 Congress enacted the Taft-Hartley amendments to the National Labor Relations Act prohibiting striking unions from engaging in boycotts against parties who were not involved in a dispute with the union- so called secondary boycotts; and

WHEREAS, in 1986 railroad unions adopted nationwide secondary boy-cott tactics in an effort to force settlement of dispute with a regional rail-road in New England; and

WHEREAS, subsequently the Supreme Court ruled that since Congress had not amended the Railway Labor Act, which covers the railroad and air-line industry, to prohibit secondary boycotts, such tactics were lawful for unions in those industries; and

WHEREAS, in 1989 the machinists union, in the context of a dispute with Eastern Airlines, threatened to picket various railroads and to disrupt ser-vice on heavily used commuter rail lines in an effort to force the appoint-ment of a presidential emergency board; and

WHEREAS, as the law now stands, a local dispute involving one employer can result in the disruption of vital transportation services throughout the nation and be transformed into a national crisis; and

WHEREAS, by being able to engage in secondary boycotts, rail and airline unions can inflict hardship on neutral parties as a means of exacting conces-sions that could not otherwise be gained through the normal collective bargaining process; and

WHEREAS, the ability to engage in secondary boycotts permits rail and airline unions to wield power specifically denied to all other unions and to hold the nation hostage to their parochial interests; and

WHEREAS, permitting rail and airline unions to engage in secondary boy-cotts has the potential for great harm and has no rationale in labor law or public policy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of (state) memorialize Congress to amend the Railway Labor Act to extend to rail and airline unions the prohibitions on secondary boycotts that apply to all other unions under the National Labor Relations Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the clerk of the House of Representatives and Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Secretary of Labor of the United States and to each Member of Congress of the United States.

ALEC's Sourcebook of American State Legislation 1995

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