

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

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- Kraft Foods, Inc.
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- 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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Resolution Against Federal Weight-Distance Tax Proposal

Summary

Current proposals in Congress would repeal several existing federal highway user fees and impose in their place a federal weight-distance tax on motor carrier, calculated according to the weight of a truck, the number of its axles, and the distance it travels. The bill contemplates that state governments would assist in the administration, collection, and enforcement of the new tax.

The proposed federal weight-distance tax represents a significant tax increase for most of the motor carrier industry, would impose burdensome administrative and compliance costs on government and industry, and, by reason of greatly increased tax evasion, threaten the integrity of the federal Highway Trust Fund.

Model Resolution

WHEREAS, The proposed federal weight-distance tax represents a significant federal tax increase for the majority of the motor carrier industry, at a time when there are surpluses in both the federal general fund and the federal Highway Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Highway Administration, the motor carrier industry is already paying its fair share of the cost of the Nation's highways; and

WHEREAS, administration of the proposed federal weight-distance tax would be delegated to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, which has no experience or expertise with a highway user fee of such scope or complexity, and which would be required to employ as many as 1,000 additional federal tax auditors to collect the tax; and

WHEREAS, compliance with the proposed federal weight-distance tax would impose immense burdens on the motor carrier industry, the majority of which comprises thousands of small businesses; and

WHEREAS, most intrastate carriers do not currently report their operations to state or federal governments for tax purposes, the proposed federal weight-distance tax would require such carriers to initiate complex tax reporting systems from scratch; and

WHEREAS, state experience with weight-distance taxes has been notably unsatisfactory, with nearly twenty states having repealed this type of tax over the years because of its complex administration and widespread evasion; and

WHEREAS, state governments do not currently collect or maintain data on motor carriers that would materially assist in the administration, collection, or enforcement of the proposed federal weight-distance tax; and

WHEREAS, potential evasion of the proposed federal weight-distance tax has been estimated at from \$1 billion to \$1.75 billion annually, which would drain the federal Highway Trust Fund of revenues the states need for highway construction and maintenance; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Legislative Exchange Council hereby opposes the enactment of a federal weight-distance tax on the motor carrier industry.

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

Adopted by ALEC's Trade & Transportation Task Force at the Annual Meeting August 13, 1999. Approved by full ALEC Board of Directors September, 1999.

Did you know that global corporation Kraft Foods 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, www.SourceWatch.org, and now www.ALECExposed.org. For more information contact: editor@prwatch.org or 608-260-9713.