

Letter from more than 100 Organizations Opposing ALEC's Climate Denial in State Legislatures

December 2, 2014

Dear State Legislator:

We are writing to bring to your attention misleading statements that have been made by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and to urge you to publicly reject ALEC's efforts to shape (or misshape) state legislation. Specifically, we ask that you not affiliate with ALEC and that you encourage your colleagues to cut ties as well. We also ask that you publicly request that ALEC adopt true transparency measures, including annually releasing ALEC's corporate member list.

ALEC is a polluter-funded group that increasingly tries to obscure the purposes and impacts of the legislation it is peddling. Recently, Microsoft, Google, Facebook, Yahoo and Yelp decided to cut ties with ALEC over its regressive stance on climate change and clean energy. In response to this exodus of tech companies, ALEC has claimed that it is not a climate denial organization – that it does not take an official position on climate change but merely fosters debate. However, while it is noteworthy that ALEC understands that being associated with climate denial is a liability in the public's mind, legislators should not be fooled by ALEC's latest attempts to rework its tarnished image.

Presentation slides leaked from ALEC's Dallas conference on July 31, 2014 demonstrate that ALEC is promoting extreme climate denialist views behind closed doors, including these assertions:

- "There is no need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and no point in attempting to do so."
- "There is no scientific consensus on the human role in climate change."
- "Carbon dioxide has not caused weather to become more extreme, polar ice and sea ice to melt, or sea level rise to accelerate. These were all false alarms."

ALEC's model policies reflect these climate denial claims. ALEC is pushing to weaken or repeal state renewable energy and efficiency standards, to reduce financial incentives to adopt rooftop solar, and to undermine EPA's efforts to limit carbon pollution from power plants. ALEC does not support any policies that would move toward solving the climate crisis. As part of its public relations effort, ALEC has falsely stated that the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) supports policies similar to ALEC's. NRDC has issued a statement that ALEC is making false claims about NRDC positions.

ALEC is attempting to deny its own climate change denial, in order to maintain its influence in state legislatures, and is pressing for an agenda on behalf of unnamed corporations. We urge you not to be taken in, but instead to take the steps called for in this letter.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

African American Ministers In Action
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
Americans for Democratic Action
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Media & Democracy/ALEC Exposed Project
Citizens for Global Solutions
Clean Water Action

Energy Action Coalition
Energy and Policy Institute
Environment America
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Forecast the Facts
Friends of the Earth
Greenpeace USA
Healthcare Without Harm
IDEAS For Us
Interfaith Power & Light

Izaak Walton League of America, Energy and Environment Committee
League of Conservation Voters
Moms Clean Air Force
Natural Resources Defense Council
NextGen Climate America
Physicians for Social Responsibility
ProgressNow
Public Citizen
Safe Climate Campaign
SustainUS
Union of Concerned Scientists

Northeast Organizations

Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)
Environment Connecticut
Environment Maine
Environment Massachusetts
Environment New Hampshire
Environment New Jersey
Environment New York
Environment Rhode Island
Green Congregation Comm. of Channing Memorial Church
New York Interfaith Power & Light
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light
Vermont Interfaith Power & Light

Midwest Organizations

Clean Energy Trust
Clean Wisconsin
Climate + Energy Project (Kansas)
Eco-Justice Collaborative
Ecology Center (Michigan)
Environment Illinois
Environment Iowa
Environment Michigan
Environment Minnesota
Environment Missouri
Environment Ohio
Faith in Place/ IL Interfaith Power & Light
Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice
Frack Free Illinois
Illinois Environmental Council
Illinois Green Business Association
Illinois Solar Energy Association
Iowa Environmental Council
Iowa Interfaith Power & Light
Kansans for Clean Energy
Kansas Interfaith Power & Light
Missouri Coalition for the Environment
Nebraska Interfaith Power & Light
Ohio Environmental Council

People for Community Recovery
Progress Iowa
Renew Missouri
Shawnee Sentinels
US Green Building Council, Illinois Government Committee
Wisconsin Environment

Southeast Organizations

350 Louisville
Alliance for Affordable Energy
Appalachian Voices
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Sustainable Communities
Clean Air Carolina
Corporate Accountability International
Environment Florida
Environment Georgia
Environment Maryland
Environment Texas
Environment Virginia
Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL)
Georgia Women's Action for New Directions
GreenLaw
Jesus People Against Pollution
Kentucky Conservation Committee
Kentucky Environmental Foundation
Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light
KY Student Environmental Coalition
Progress Florida
Sunshine State Interfaith Power & Light
Virginia Interfaith Power & Light
Virginia New Majority
Virginia Organizing

Western Organizations

Clean Energy Action (Colorado)
Courage Campaign (California)
Environment Arizona
Environment California
Environment Colorado
Environment Montana
Environment Nevada
Environment New Mexico
Environment Washington
Montana Environmental Information Center
Montanans Against Toxic Burning
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
Olympic Climate Action
Snake River Alliance
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

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