

Request Internal Revenue Service to Investigate ALEC

WHEREAS, without registering as a lobbying group, ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) organizes right-wing state lawmakers all over the country and encourages them to introduce certain bills. One of the worst ALEC bills forces federal land managers to put protected land under state control so those same conservative lawmakers can auction it off, open it up for mining, or do whatever else they want to it. Last year the Utah Legislature passed its version into law despite the state legislative counsel calling it unconstitutional. Far-right Sen. Al Melvin has introduced the same bill in Arizona, and

WHEREAS, ALEC's primary purpose is to influence legislation at the state level, yet for years it has disclaimed on its tax returns spending a penny on lobbying. Congressman Raul Grijalva recently wrote: "Despite actively pressing state lawmakers on a range of issues, ALEC has failed for decades to register as a lobbying organization ..." ALEC's influence is widespread it supported measures similar to Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law, which was cited by George Zimmerman in defense of his shooting and killing of Trayvon Martin, and

WHEREAS, the Guardianⁱ reported that last summer ALEC informed legislators and corporate lobbyists that it has incorporated a new organization to seek non-profit status under section 501(c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code. In so doing, ALEC appears to acknowledge that the allegations of tax fraud in complaints from Common Cause, and the Voters Legislative Transparency Project, supplemented by evidence provided by the Center for Media and Democracy, helped spur this incorporation, and

WHEREAS, these latest revelations about ALEC in the Guardian add weight to the argument that ALEC primarily operates like a trade group for its corporate funders, backing the bills sought by corporate lobbyists and buying lawmakers' trips to meet with those lobbyists about bills, and

WHEREAS, a recent report adds new findings to two previous reports about ALEC's influence in Arizona, released in November 2011 and April 2012. ALEC bills introduced in past Arizona legislative sessions include the controversial SB 1070 immigration law, several voter suppression and voter ID bills, a prison privatization bill, and anti-environment bills that promote a polluters' agenda.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Arizona Democratic Party requests that the Internal Revenue Service investigate whether the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) has violated federal tax law by making substantial misrepresentations on its sworn tax returns.

ⁱ The Guardian, December 14, 2013