

June 14, 2021

We are writing to urge you to cease your association with, and end your funding of, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) based on its active efforts to restrict the American people's freedom to vote and spread lies about the integrity of our elections to undermine American democracy.

Faced with public outrage over legislation that creates barriers to voting rights enacted or proposed in more than 47 states<sup>i</sup>, and the bills' disproportionate impact on people of color, young people, and the elderly, hundreds of companies have publicly denounced any discriminatory legislation that makes it harder for people to vote.<sup>ii</sup> Perhaps your company is one of them.

Nonetheless, your participation in ALEC serves to promote and legitimize the group's anti-democratic efforts to create more barriers to voting.

Despite claiming it would stop working on electoral issues in 2012, ALEC has reengaged on highly controversial policies related to elections and redistricting in recent years, perhaps without your company's knowledge. In 2019, ALEC created a secret working group on redistricting, ballot measures, and election law, known as the "ALEC Political Process Working Group."<sup>iii</sup>

The group is led in part by Clela Mitchell, a controversial attorney who has spread disinformation about the results of the 2020 election and served as a legal advisor to former President Trump as he secretly pushed election officials in Georgia to overturn the results of a free and fair election.<sup>iv</sup> Another leader of ALEC's secret working group is Arizona state Representative Shawna Bolick, who recently proposed a bill to allow the state legislature to overturn the results of a presidential election.<sup>v</sup>

ALEC's own CEO, Lisa Nelson, said in February 2020 that ALEC was already working with state legislators on efforts to challenge the 2020 election results and "question the validity of an election."<sup>vi</sup> Nelson's comments were made nine months before the election even took place. Then, in June 2020, ALEC held an exclusive call for its members on the topic of mail-in voting featuring the Honest Elections Project<sup>vii</sup>, a group that pushes voter restriction laws and which spread disinformation about the integrity of mail-in voting during the 2020 election.<sup>viii</sup> But ALEC's spread of disinformation about voting pre-dates the 2020 election cycle. In 2017, ALEC hosted a panel featuring three members of former President Trump's disbanded and discredited election integrity commission (Hans von Spakowsky, J. Christian Adams, and Christy McCormick), where they made unfounded claims of voter fraud and pushed for legislation to restrict the right to vote.<sup>ix</sup>

Make no mistake, ALEC and its allies' involvement in spreading disinformation about voting and undermining the integrity of our elections led to the violent insurrection we witnessed on January 6th at the U.S. Capitol. And now your company's funding and support of ALEC is being used to pass new Jim Crow-style anti-voter laws at the state level and block federal voting reform from passing in Congress.

In March 2021, ALEC held a briefing with U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), one of the leading proponents to reject the results of the 2020 election, on a strategy to oppose a bill expanding access to the ballot box in Congress and support the national campaign to restrict voting rights at the state level.<sup>x</sup> U.S. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) has also recently said that he has "been speaking to legislators through ALEC" about election and voting-related policies.<sup>xi</sup>

In an internal memo, Heritage Action, an advocacy group leading the effort to pass voting restrictions at the state level, recently wrote that ALEC would be a key policy and lobbying partner in their multi-year campaign to push anti-voter laws, many of which specifically target and limit voting access for people of color, young people, and the elderly.<sup>xii</sup> One report has identified more than 100 state legislators connected to ALEC that are lead sponsors or co-sponsors of bills that limit voting access in Georgia, Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Texas in 2021 alone.<sup>xiii</sup>

In addition to restricting the freedom to vote, ALEC has also been actively promoting partisan gerrymandering strategies, despite the group's nonpartisan, tax-exempt status. The public has little information about ALEC's secret working group on elections, but in October 2019 *Slate* obtained an audio recording, documenting that ALEC was instructing state legislators how to gerrymander districts that benefit themselves and obscure the public's access and knowledge about their work.<sup>xiv</sup> According to the *Texas Observer*, speakers at a 2019 ALEC conference encouraged legislators to throw away notes and avoid saying things in email on redistricting that they do not want the public to see, further undermining transparency in the redistricting process.<sup>xv</sup>

The Heritage Foundation's Hans von Spakovsky -- a frequent speaker at ALEC conferences who has been described as a "polarizing figure in voting rights circles" by *The Washington Post*<sup>xvi</sup> for his work that has "led to disenfranchisement among poor and minority groups" -- encouraged legislators to use "citizen voting age population" in redistricting to skew the process to help Republicans win elections. This partisan admission is similar to that of Thomas Hofeller, the longtime Republican redistricting operative responsible for drawing many of the GOP-favored gerrymandered maps from the last few decades. Hofeller urged the use of citizen voting age population so redistricting would be "advantageous to Republicans and Non-Hispanic Whites."<sup>xvii</sup>

Also in 2019, ALEC filed a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court defending the Virginia legislature's racial gerrymanders, which were ultimately struck down as unconstitutional.<sup>xviii</sup> And in 2018, ALEC adopted a "model" resolution stating that redistricting powers should remain with partisan politicians and the courts should not be able to provide relief to voters who have been discriminatorily gerrymandered.<sup>xix</sup>

Your continued financial support of ALEC is an active endorsement of these efforts to create more barriers to the freedom to vote and weaken representation for the American people in government. Intended or not, the money your company is contributing to ALEC helps fund this modern Jim Crow effort.

Since its founding, ALEC has had a long history of pushing anti-voter and anti-democratic laws that limit the people's ability to participate in our democracy. One of ALEC's first leaders, Paul Weyrich, famously said:

*"I don't want everybody to vote. Elections are not won by a majority of people. They never have been from the beginning of our country, and they are not now. As a matter of fact, our leverage in the elections quite candidly goes up as the voting populace goes down."*<sup>xx</sup>

In 2012, after facing backlash for advocating for legislation that would restrict voting rights, particularly for people of color, ALEC told its members, donors, and the public it would no longer work on electoral issues and disbanded its "Public Safety and Elections Task Force."<sup>xxi</sup>

Now, ALEC has broken that promise. Apparently having forgotten their lesson, ALEC has rejoined the ranks of hyper-partisan organizations perpetuating the “Big Lie” and is actively working to undermine American democracy and restrict the people’s right to vote.

We, the undersigned organizations, work on a variety of issues and don’t always agree on every policy, but we all believe in a strong American democracy, where every eligible American is able to exercise their freedom to vote in free, fair, and safe elections. We believe that building a democracy that works for everyone is going to take all of us in both the nonprofit and for-profit sectors.

At a time when ALEC-backed legislation to undermine the right to vote has provoked unprecedented public and corporate outrage, we urge your company to immediately cease all funding and sever all ties with ALEC. We also urge your company to publicly oppose any efforts that create more barriers to voting and undermine confidence in our democratic institutions.

Sincerely,

***National organizations:***

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| A. Philip Randolph Institute   | Color Of Change   |
| Advancement Project National Office                                    | Common Cause  |
| AFL-CIO  | Common Defense  |
| African American Ministers In Action                                   | Communications Workers of America (CWA)                 |
| Alliance for Climate Education   | CongressMajority.org                                    |
| Alliance for Democracy   | CorpGov.net   |
| Alliance for Youth Action  | DemCast USA   |
| Amalgamated Transit Union International                                | Democracy 21  |
| American Family Voices   | Democracy Initiative                                    |
| American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) | Democracy Matters                                       |
| American Federation of Teachers (AFT)                                  | End Citizens United / Let America Vote Action Fund      |
| American Friends Service Committee                                     | Equal Citizens  |
| Andrew Goodman Foundation  | Equal Justice Society                                   |
| Black Voters Matter Fund   | Equality Federation                                     |
| Blue Future  | Fair Fight Action                                       |
| Blue Wave Postcard Movement  | Feminist Majority Foundation/Ms.                        |
| BOLD ReThink   | First Affirmative Financial Network                     |
| Build Back Better USA  | Franciscan Action Network                               |
| Center for Biological Diversity  | Greenpeace US   |
| Center for Common Ground   | Impact Fund   |
| Center for Constitutional Rights                                       | Institute for Research & Education on Human Rights Inc. |
| Center for Media and Democracy   | Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility           |
| Center for Popular Democracy   | Lambda Legal  |
| Change The Chamber   | Lawyers for Good Government (L4GG)                      |
| Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)            | League of United Latin American Citizens                |
|  | League of Women Voters of the United States             |

Lights for Liberty  
Missionary Oblates  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Education Association (NEA)  
Network for Responsible Public Policy  
New American Leaders Action Fund  
No Dem Left Behind PAC  
Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment  
Palestine Legal  
People For the American Way  
People's Action  
Progressive Turnout Project  
Public Citizen  
Publish What You Pay--United States  
Rock the Vote Action Fund  
School Sisters of Notre Dame Cooperative Investment Fund  
Scrutineers LLC  
Secular Coalition for America  
Secure Elections Network  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Sierra Club  
Sisters of the Holy Cross  
Small Planet Institute  
Solidaire Action Fund  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund  
Stand Up America  
State Innovation Exchange  
State Voices  
SumOfUs  
The Black Heritage Museum & Cultural Center, Inc.  
The Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus  
The Civics Center  
The Ethical Capitalism Group  
The Workers Circle  
Tobaccofree Earth  
True North Research  
Un-PAC  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
UnKoch My Campus  
ValueEdge Advisors  
Vote.org  
VoteAmerica  
#VOTEPROCHOICE

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
US  
Zevin Asset Management  
20/20 Vision  
44 Virtues  
9to5

*State and local organizations:*

Alabama

Greater Birmingham Ministries

Alaska

Alaska AFL-CIO

Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AKPIRG)

Save Our State

Stand UP Alaska

The Alaska Center Education Fund

Arizona

AFSCME AZ Affiliates

CASE Action FUND

Progress Arizona

The AZ Ground Game

Arizona AFL-CIO

Arkansas

For AR People

Southern Progress Fund

California

California Common Cause

Courage California

East Valley Indivisibles

Equality California

Harrington investments, Inc.

Indivisible San Francisco (ISF)

Indivisible San Jose

Indivisible South Peninsula

Indivisible Ventura

KyotoUSA

Legal Aid at Work

Northridge Indivisible

Peace & Justice Community of St. Cross Episcopal Church

Positive Women's Network-USA

Venice Resistance

## Colorado

Arvadans for Progressive Action  
Colorado Civic Engagement Roundtable  
Colorado Common Cause  
Greeley-Weld Indivisible  
Indivisible Colorado  
IndivisibleNOCO  
One Colorado  
ProgressNow Colorado  
Soul 2 Soul Sisters and our Let My People Vote program  
YuCo & Friends Indivisible Group

## Connecticut

Common Cause Connecticut

## Delaware

Common Cause Delaware  
Delaware Working Families Party  
Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice

## Florida

ACLU of Florida  
Broward for Progress  
Common Cause Florida  
Florida Student Power Network  
Progress Florida  
State Voices Florida  
West Pinellas National Organization for Women (NOW)

## Georgia

Common Cause Georgia  
Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials  
(GALEO) & GALEO Impact Fund  
Georgia Equality  
Indivisible Georgia Coalition  
Progress Georgia  
Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda  
Georgia WAND

## Hawaii

Common Cause Hawaii  
Community Alliance on Prisons  
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center  
Hep Free Hawaii  
Indivisible Hawaii  
LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

## Life of the Land

Young Progressives Demanding Action

## Illinois

Common Cause Illinois  
Evanston North Shore Branch NAACP  
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC  
Indivisible Illinois  
National Council of Jewish Women Chicago North  
Shore  
Beth Tikvah Congregation Tzedek Project

## Indiana

Common Cause Indiana  
Indiana Vote By Mail

## Iowa

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement Action  
Progress Iowa

## Maine

Mainers for Accountable Leadership

## Maryland

Be the Change Bmore  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network  
Common Cause Maryland  
DoTheMostGood  
NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland  
Public Justice Center  
SAVE our Votes: Secure, Accessible, Verifiable  
Elections for Maryland  
Strong Future Maryland

## Massachusetts

Climate Finance Action  
Common Cause Massachusetts  
Indivisible Acton Area  
Indivisible Martha's Vineyard  
NorthStar Asset Management, Inc.

## Michigan

Common Cause Michigan  
Corporate Responsibility office - Province of Saint  
Joseph of the Capuchin Order  
Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids  
Indivisible Troy

LP Indivisible  
Michigan United  
Michigananders for Fair & Transparent Elections  
Progress Michigan  
S&D PJ Housing

#### Minnesota

Clean Elections Minnesota  
Common Cause Minnesota  
COPAL MN  
Indivisible - MN Senate Districts 56 & 58  
Indivisible MN03  
ISAIAH  
Minnesota Let People Vote Coalition  
MUUSJA Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social  
Justice Alliance  
Organizing for Action Minnesota  
OutFront Minnesota  
Plymouth Area Indivisible  
Spotlight Team, MN  
St. Croix Valley Indivisible  
Women Against Military Madness  
Women's March Minnesota  
New Prague Community Action Network

#### Missouri

Missouri Asian American Youth Foundation  
Missouri Voter Protection Coalition  
Progress MO  
Dance the Vote

#### Nebraska

Common Cause Nebraska

#### Nevada

Silver State Equality-Nevada

#### New Hampshire

Granite State Progress  
Open Democracy Action  
603 Forward

#### New Jersey

Action Together New Jersey  
Represent.Us/New Jersey

#### New Mexico

American Federation of Teachers New Mexico  
Animal Protection Voters  
Common Cause New Mexico  
Equality New Mexico  
Native American Voters Alliance Education Project  
(NAVA)  
New Energy Economy  
New Mexico Wild Action Fund  
RepresentUs New Mexico  
ProgressNow New Mexico Education Fund

#### New York

Brooklyn Voters Alliance  
Common Cause New York  
Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance  
Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition  
Greater NYC for Change  
Indivisible Stephentown  
Indivisible Ulster  
PEER: Progressive East End Reformers  
Putnam Progressives  
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York  
South Central Brooklyn United for Progress

#### North Carolina

Action NC  
Common Cause North Carolina  
Democracy North Carolina  
NC Justice Center  
NC League of Conservation Voters  
North Carolina Asian Americans Together  
North Carolina Council of Churches  
North Carolina Voters for Clean Elections  
S J Adams Consulting  
SIKOW  
NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina

#### North Dakota

Prairie Action ND

#### Ohio

Common Cause Ohio  
Communications Workers of America District 4  
Crazy Faith Ministries  
Cuyahoga Democratic Women's Caucus  
Equality Ohio  
Gahanna Democrats and Friends

Innovation Ohio  
League of Women Voters of Ohio  
The Needmor Fund  
Northeast Ohio Voter Advocates  
Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans Educational Fund  
Ohio Environmental Council  
Ohio Fair Courts Alliance  
Ohio Progressive Action Leaders  
Ohio Voter Rights Coalition  
Ohio Women's Alliance  
Our Revolution Ohio  
SEIU District 1199  
Single Payer Action Network Ohio  
The Freedom BLOC  
Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio  
Upper Arlington Progressive Action  
River Valley Organizing

#### Oregon

Civil Liberties Defense Center  
Common Cause Oregon  
Indivisible Southern Oregon

#### Pennsylvania

Common Cause Pennsylvania  
Sisters of Saint Joseph  
MarchOnHarrisburg

#### Rhode Island

Common Cause Rhode Island

#### South Dakota

Sisters of the Presentation of the BVM of Aberdeen SD

#### Tennessee

Southern Christian Coalition  
Tennessee Equality Project  
Tennessee Small Business Alliance

#### Texas

Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs  
(apapa.org)

Clean Elections Texas  
Common Cause Texas  
Faith Commons  
Faith Forward Dallas @ Thanks-Giving Square  
Progress Texas  
Texas AFLCIO  
Texas Alliance for Retired Americans  
Texas Civil Rights Project  
Texas Impact

#### Utah

Alliance for a Better Utah

#### Virginia

Burke Advocacy Moms  
Clean Virginia  
Virginia Political Cooperative

#### Washington

Fix Democracy First  
Newground Social Investment

#### West Virginia

Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action  
Rise Up WV

#### Wisconsin

Common Cause Wisconsin  
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes  
Indivisible Madison  
Our Wisconsin Revolution  
Religious Coalition for the Great Lakes  
SEIU Wisconsin State Council  
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign  
Wisconsin Education Association Council  
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

#### Wyoming

Sheridan County Wyoming Promise

<sup>i</sup> The Brennan Center for Justice: "[State Voting Bills Tracker 2021](#)," accessed May 3, 2021

<sup>ii</sup> *The New York Times*: "[Hundreds of Companies Unite to Oppose Voting Limits, but Others Abstain](#)," April 14, 2021

<sup>iii</sup> *Documented*: "[Corporate-Backed ALEC Creates Secret Internal Project to Work on Redistricting and Election Issues](#)," June 5, 2020

<sup>iv</sup> *Associated Press*: "[Former Trump adviser takes prominent role in voting battle](#)," March 28, 2021

<sup>v</sup> *Arizona Daily Star*: "[Proposed law would allow Arizona Legislature to overturn presidential election results](#)," February 13, 2021

<sup>vi</sup> *HuffPost*: "[Videotape Reveals Corporate-Funded Plan To Try To Overturn A Trump Loss](#)," October 30, 2020

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<sup>vii</sup> *Exposed by CMD*: “[ALEC Invite to “Mail-In Voting: Exclusive Call with Former FEC Official & Honest Elections”](#),” June 3, 2020

<sup>viii</sup> *The Guardian*: “[Revealed: conservative group fighting to restrict voting tied to powerful dark money network](#),” May 27, 2020

<sup>ix</sup> *HuffPost*, “[3 Members Of Trump Panel Warn Of Voter Fraud To Influential Conservative Group](#),” December 7, 2017

<sup>x</sup> *Associated Press*: “[“An all-hands moment’: GOP rallies behind voting limits](#),” March 19, 2021

<sup>xi</sup> *Exposed by CMD*: “[Rand Paul Is Working with ALEC to Suppress the Vote](#),” May 3, 2021

<sup>xii</sup> *The New York Times*: “[G.O.P. and Allies Draft ‘Best Practices’ for Restricting Voting](#),” March 23, 2021

<sup>xiii</sup> *Exposed by CMD*: “[ALEC Members Lead Voter Suppression Efforts in 2020 Battleground States](#),” April 13, 2021

<sup>xiv</sup> *Slate*: “[How to Get Away With Gerrymandering](#),” October 2, 2019

<sup>xv</sup> *Texas Observer*: “[Republicans Come to Texas to Prepare for the 2021 Redistricting Battle](#),” August 20, 2019

<sup>xvi</sup> *The Washington Post*: “[Trump’s pick to investigate voter fraud is freaking out voting rights activists](#),” June 30, 2017

<sup>xvii</sup> *Common Cause*: “[Election Manipulators Use ALEC To Push Their Partisan Power Grabs Against Voters](#),” August 20, 2019

<sup>xviii</sup> Brief for the American Legislative Exchange Council et al. as Amici Curiae Supporting Appellants, Va. House of Delegates v. Bethune-Hill, 139 S. Ct. 1945 (2019) (No. 18-281). [https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/18/18-281/78378/20190104161702005\\_18-281%20Amici%20Brief%20ALEC.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/18/18-281/78378/20190104161702005_18-281%20Amici%20Brief%20ALEC.pdf)

<sup>xix</sup> *PR Watch*: “[ALEC Launches Effort to Protect Gerrymandering from Judges](#),” August 21, 2018

<sup>xx</sup> Sourcewatch: [Interesting ALEC Quotes](#); accessed April 30, 2021

<sup>xxi</sup> *CBS News*: “[ALEC backs down in wake of backlash over voter ID, “stand your ground” laws](#),” April 17, 2012