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From: <news@alec.org>

Date: Wed, Jun 27, 2012 at 1:43 PM

Subject: ALEC Weekly Update

To: [REDACTED]



Dear ALEC Member,

I wanted to start with an update on the [2012 Annual Meeting](#). This year's Annual Meeting registration is tracking in line with our 2010 election year attendance in San Diego, and fundraising is on track for this to be our 2nd most successful meeting ever. Additionally, we will be joined by a number of great speakers, including Utah Gov. Herbert, political handicapper Charlie Cook, and a number of other fantastic keynotes that will be announced in the coming days. If you haven't registered yet, you can register [here](#).

It's been said that the reward for work well done is the opportunity to do more. This sentiment rings especially true for us at ALEC these days, and there are two reasons for that.

First, together, we've done some tremendous work over the years. This is a large part of the reason the national conversation about ALEC has reached the levels it has reached in recent weeks. Today we are continuing our work. We're refocusing on economic issues and we're doubling down on the free market, limited government, federalist principles that made this organization the success it is today.

Second, the last several weeks have shown us that there's much more we can do as an organization to keep one another informed.

That's why today I am pleased to share with you the first in a series of weekly updates to ALEC members. These updates are also meant to, in some cases, correct the record about our organization and, in all cases, highlight the work that you and your fellow ALEC members are doing.

I'm excited about ramping up our member communications and hope you find these updates helpful and informative. So, let's get started.

In Case You Missed It:

Check out [this video](#) chronicling the opposition's activities.



What's New?

This week we saw our opponents continue to make outrageous claims about ALEC, from our tax-exempt status, to the way we conduct our business, to the motives behind our members' decisions to begin or end relationships with us. We even saw them repeat patently false charges of racism.

What You Need to Know:

The groups attacking ALEC are doing so because [we are successful](#) and [philosophical differences](#) place them permanently at odds with us. Our opponents are using [any means](#) necessary to [silence ALEC completely](#) – free speech be damned. But it looks like they are capable of [more talk than action](#). Click through the links in this paragraph to learn more.

Like any membership organization, our membership numbers ebb and flow based on everything from financial considerations to legislative priorities. We enjoy long-term relationships with many legislators and corporations, while others choose to partner with us for a year or two at a time – and this has been the case for years. In fact, despite the prevailing narrative of late, our membership numbers are actually *up* from where they were just 12 months ago. While those groups attacking us would like to claim credit for forcing companies out of ALEC, the reality is that some of these companies simply chose not to renew their memberships many months ago.

By the Numbers:

600 New Legislators since 2011

72 New Private Sector Members in 2011 and 25 New Private Sector Members in 2012.

Looking Ahead:

Yet even in the face of these attacks, we're continuing to serve as a resource for those interested in promoting policies to grow the economy, create jobs, and limit the size of government – *just as we've always done.*

I hope you've read this year's [Rich States Poor States](#) report. Senator Wayne Niederhauser from [Utah](#) touted the report and his state's economic success back home, and the *Washington Examiner* covered the report by highlighting the economic policy differences on either side of the Potomac River in [Maryland and Virginia](#). Additionally, we continue to bring our broader economic message to [editorial pages](#) from coast to coast.



On the horizon, we've got more studies coming out, and we were pleased with the overwhelmingly positive reaction to our recent "[EPA's Regulatory Train Wreck](#)" report and our "[Report Card on American Education](#)" earlier this year.

These issues – taxes, reducing the burden on business, and putting more Americans back to work – are the issues that voters care about. At a time when job creation, real solutions, and improved dialogue among political leaders is needed most, ALEC has never been more important that it is today.

We should all be very proud of our work to support state legislators from both sides of the aisle and from all 50 states to:

- Debate and support resolutions that support free-market health care
- Encourage the creation of a more transparent, accountable government
- Support policies that place a priority on free enterprise and consumer choice
- Advance tax policies that are fair and simple and spur competitiveness

This is why lawmakers of all political stripes and a wide array of American businesses choose to become ALEC members.

If there is anything you need or anything more that you'd like to know about the work we're doing, please don't hesitate to contact me. For any media or communications-related support, please contact our Director of Communications Kaitlyn Buss at [202-742-8526](tel:202-742-8526) or kbuss@alec.org.

Sincerely,

Ron Scheberle

Executive Director

American Legislative Exchange Council

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