

March 16, 2016

Senator Bill Cadman  
State Capitol Building  
200 E Colfax Ave  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Senator Bill Cadman,

We are writing to you during Sunshine Week 2016 in your role as State Chair for the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) to request that you release information about how ALEC and its lobbyist members operate in the state of Colorado.

As you know, the primary purpose of ALEC and its sister organization, the Jeffersonian Project, is to move a legislative agenda in the states through the promotion of “model” legislation approved by ALEC task forces where corporate lobbyists and special interests vote as equals with state legislators. ALEC has claimed that more than 1,000 of its bills are introduced each year. In one mailing to its corporate funders, ALEC boasted: “With our success rate at more than 20 percent, I would say that ALEC is a good investment. Nowhere else can you get a return that high.”

ALEC recently stated on its website that: “Government transparency is absolutely critical for government accountability,” and “there can only be accountability when the public is aware of what the government does.”

In the spirit of that statement and Sunshine Week, we call on you to release the following information to the press and citizens of Colorado:

- Details and amounts of payments made to the ALEC scholarship fund in Colorado, from which gifts of travel related expenses are provided to legislators to attend ALEC conferences. Typically these payments are solicited by you from lobbyists, corporations, and others in your role as ALEC state chair, but are reported by legislators simply as being gifts from “ALEC.”
- A full and complete membership list of ALEC legislators and private sector funders in Colorado.
- A record of which legislators from Colorado have attended ALEC conferences and other events, and the amount of any “scholarships” they received for that purpose.
- A list of ALEC “model” bills, or legislation based on ALEC “model” bills, introduced in Colorado.

We understand that this information is already provided to you by ALEC periodically, and so preparing these records would not present any significant additional burden.

We call on you to release five years of these records, and from this point forward to make public these documents for Colorado on a regular and timely basis.

Lisa Graves  
Executive Director  
Center for Media and Democracy