



Free Markets are an ALEC Guiding Principle and International Trade is an ALEC Priority



The past two years have been among the most turbulent in the international trade space in recent memory. Beginning with withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership – a multilateral trade framework that included provisions that were

hard won by American industry and good for American workers – to threats from the Administration to upend US participation in the US-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) to the rapid renegotiation of the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA), disruption of the nation's international trade landscape has continued at warp speed. The latest iteration of the Administration's trade policy involves the misapplication of rarely invoked trade law such as [Section 201 of the 1974 Trade Act](#) (executive action to mitigate "serious injury" to domestic industry caused by import competition) and [Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962](#) (imposition of import restrictions in order to safeguard national security). All are misguided attempts to protect domestic industries that will ultimately slow economic growth, adversely affect American workers and consumers, and ignite a trade war.

Tariffs are akin to discriminatory taxes which ALEC has long opposed. Trade deficits are incorrectly equated with "bad deals" and are seen as the primary measure of a trade partnership's value. This ignores the job creation and economic growth spurred by foreign direct investment (FDI) as those trade deficit dollars flow back to the United States. The demonstrable potential of trade frameworks to be non-military strategic footprints in key regions around the globe also overlooked. **ALEC's response to troubling trends in international trade policy has been swift and robust.**

STRATEGIC MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

"Some Americans cling to the notion that companies headquartered in the U.S. are the sole creators of American jobs – an assumption that flies in the face of ... experience."
– South Carolina Representative Garry Smith in [Don't Let Bad Trade Policy Destroy Job Opportunities in South Carolina](#)

"Reduced industry competition resulting from tariffs will ultimately lead to fewer choices and higher prices for American families." – Karla Jones, ALEC Director Federalism and International Relations Task Force in [Tariffs and protectionism are not the way to make America great again](#)

BLOG ARTICLES

"The states have been notable NAFTA beneficiaries and have the most to lose if the Agreement falters." – Karla Jones, ALEC Director Federalism and International Relations Task Force in [NAFTA Is All about the States](#)

"Trade agreements are one of the most potent devices in America's soft power toolkit, supplementing treaties and aircraft carriers to communicate U.S. regional priorities and to secure regional influence." – Karla Jones, ALEC Director Federalism and International Relations Task Force in [Withdrawal from the US-Korea Free Trade Agreement Is a Losing Proposition for America](#)



ALEC works with State Lawmakers to combat troubling trends in international trade policy through the following strategies:

✉️ COALITION LETTERS

- Support for Congressional Trade Authority Act
- Opposition to Steel and Aluminum Tariffs (Section 232)
- Support for Sugar Policy Modernization Act
- Opposition to Large Residential Washer Tariffs (Section 201)
- Support of US Entry into CPTPP

🗨️ ALEC LAWMAKER MEMBER-DRIVEN LETTERS

- [Opposition to Large Residential Washer Tariffs](#)
- [Support for Strong ISDS Provisions in NAFTA](#)

📄 MODEL POLICY

- Support for USMCA
- Support for Improving Intellectual Property Provisions in NAFTA
- Support for Continued Participation in the US-Korea Free Trade Agreement

💬 COMMENTS TO FEDERAL AGENCIES

“Tariffs ... result in higher prices and a reduction in consumer choice for American families and potentially lost jobs for American workers.” – [USTR Comments on Section 201 Large Residential Washer Case](#)

🤝 ENGAGEMENT WITH TRADE FOCUSED ASSOCIATIONS

ALEC has worked together with Business Roundtable, the US Chamber of Commerce, R Street, National Taxpayers Union and Taxpayers’ Protection Alliance among others to amplify the message that international trade benefits the states and the nation. Many of these methods of engagement have been used to make direct contact with Administration officials.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FEDERALISM



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