From: Nick Licata
To: Stoffmacher, Bruce
Subject: ALEC is coming to a city near you
Date: Friday, March 21, 2014 12:32:15 PM

Dear Bruce,

There are two competing visions for the future of America.

In one, corporations and the super-rich dictate what happens to our economy, our education system, our environment, and our elections.

In the other, the rest of us work together to build an inclusive economy, support strong public schools, create sustainable cities, and expand the right to vote.

At Local Progress, we work every day for the second vision.

But the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) has been pushing the first vision for over forty years. ALEC has been feeding their model legislation to right-wing politicians in statehouses across the country. They're responsible for some of the nation's worst policies: from "Stand Your Ground" laws like the one that set Trayvon Martin's killer free to "Show Your Papers" legislation like SB1070 in Arizona, ALEC has been behind tons of harmful state-level conservative legislation.

Just last week, ALEC announced a new initiative that focuses on cities, towns, and counties. They're calling it the American City County Exchange. You can be sure they're going to be bringing their regressive, destructive policies to a city near you.

But we can fight back.

Help us fight back.

Local Progress is a champion for our values and is rooted at the local level, where progressives are already wielding power and enacting laws to build a future we can all share in.

At the local level, we've got the momentum. Cities around the country are working to enact higher minimum wages, with Seattle leading the way with its $15 proposal. And Local Progress is working with lawmakers in Chicago, Oakland, New York City, San Diego, San Jose, and San Francisco who also want to raise their minimum wage significantly.

Next week in Seattle, we're convening a meeting with city council members and mayors from around the country to share strategies and advance the minimum wage movement. But we're not only discussing policy – we're also working to build solidarity around a shared vision of what American can and should be.

With ALEC spreading from state houses into city halls, all of our jobs are that much more important. And that's why we need your help.

Bringing elected officials together in Seattle next week will cost us about $10,000. And we need more funding to expand Local Progress's work to new issues and new cities around the country. This is how we will beat ALEC at their own game.

Can you support Local Progress -- the only progressive network of municipal elected officials nationwide -- to advance a forward-looking, progressive agenda at the city level?

Every $10 helps.

Thanks for all you do,

Nick Licata
Seattle City Councilmember
Local Progress Board Chair

Local Progress is a national municipal policy network. For more information please visit www.localprogress.org

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