



MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: ASHLEE RICH STEPHENSON
SUBJECT: VOTERS WANT TO MAINTAIN CURRENT FEDERAL METHANE EMISSION REGULATIONS
DATE: MARCH 28, 2017

A recent set of surveys commissioned by Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions and conducted by WPA Research among likely voters in the states of Colorado, Nevada, Ohio and Tennessee finds that likely voters want to maintain and improve current regulations on energy companies aimed at reducing the leaks and waste of natural gas. Further, likely voters also support requirements that all oil and gas producers who operate on national public lands must use updated equipment and technology to prevent methane and natural gas leaks.

Research Design

WPA conducted this research among likely voters in Colorado, Nevada, Ohio, and Tennessee. Survey respondents were selected via random sample from an online panel of likely voters from the state voter files. Responses were collected online from March 24-27, 2017. Each individual state study has a sample size of n=500 likely voters, and the margin of error is $\pm 4.4\%$ in 95 out of 100 cases. Each survey universe was stratified based on gender, age, ethnicity, party, and geography to ensure accurate likely voter representation. This methodology avoids significant post-survey “weighting” which can reduce the reliability of survey results.

Voters Favor Steps to Reduce Emission of Gas Emissions

- Likely Voters strongly favor the Federal Government taking steps to reduce emission of gases like carbon dioxide and methane emissions that cause climate change.

Do you favor or oppose the Federal Government taking steps to reduce emissions of gases like carbon dioxide and methane emissions that cause global climate change?

	Colorado	Nevada	Ohio	Tennessee
Total Favor	76%	73%	69%	68%
Total Oppose	11%	12%	12%	15%
<i>Favor Strongly</i>	50%	43%	40%	37%
<i>Favor Somewhat</i>	26%	30%	29%	31%
<i>Undecided</i>	13%	16%	19%	17%
<i>Oppose Somewhat</i>	6%	7%	7%	9%
<i>Oppose Strongly</i>	5%	4%	5%	6%

- A majority of Republicans across each state (CO: 61%, NV: 63%, OH: 54%, TN: 56%) favor the federal government taking steps to reduce emissions of gasses that cause global climate change.
- Further, these results are very strong among Independents by state (CO: 74%, NV: 72%, OH: 71%, TN: 68%).

	Colorado			Nevada			Ohio			Tennessee		
	GOP	IND	DEM	GOP	IND	DEM	GOP	IND	DEM	GOP	IND	DEM
Total Favor	61%	74%	93%	63%	72%	88%	54%	71%	85%	56%	68%	82%
Total Oppose	21%	12%	1%	20%	13%	2%	24%	6%	6%	23%	15%	6%

Likely Voters Support Updated Equipment and Technology Requirements.

- More than four-out-of-five likely voters across each state support requirements that all oil and gas producers who operate on national public lands must use updated equipment and technology. These requirements have the strongest support in Colorado, where nearly nine-in-ten (86%) support them.

Now, thinking about current federal law, do you support or oppose requirements that all oil and gas producers who operate on national public lands must use updated equipment and technology to prevent the leaks of methane gas during the extraction process while reducing the need to burn off excess natural gas in the air?

	Colorado	Nevada	Ohio	Tennessee
Total Support	86%	83%	80%	80%
Total Oppose	3%	6%	6%	8%
<i>Favor Strongly</i>	59%	56%	52%	57%
<i>Favor Somewhat</i>	27%	27%	29%	23%
<i>Undecided</i>	11%	11%	13%	11%
<i>Oppose Somewhat</i>	2%	5%	4%	5%
<i>Oppose Strongly</i>	1%	<1%	2%	3%

- Support for these requirements is strong among each partisan break, receiving overwhelmingly strong majority support across partisan lines in each state.

	Colorado			Nevada			Ohio			Tennessee		
	GOP	IND	DEM	GOP	IND	DEM	GOP	IND	DEM	GOP	IND	DEM
Total Support	84%	83%	95%	81%	84%	91%	74%	80%	89%	76%	80%	90%
Total Oppose	5%	3%	1%	10%	6%	3%	12%	6%	2%	13%	6%	2%

Likely Voters Believe Natural Gas Leaks are Harming the Environment

- Likely Voters in each state believe that natural gas leaks are harming the environment, with nearly three-in-four voters in Nevada and Colorado (72%) saying they believe it is harming the environment.

Do you believe or not believe that natural gas leaks are harming the environment?

	Colorado	Nevada	Ohio	Tennessee
Total Believe	72%	72%	69%	68%
Total Not Believe	10%	8%	12%	11%
Strongly Believe	40%	37%	37%	38%
Somewhat Believe	31%	35%	33%	30%
Undecided	18%	20%	18%	21%
Somewhat not believe	8%	6%	9%	8%
Strongly not believe	3%	3%	3%	4%

- At least seven-in-ten Independents in each state believe gas leaks are harming the environment. A majority of Republicans in each state also believe natural gas leaks are harming the environment.

	Colorado			Nevada			Ohio			Tennessee		
	GOP	IND	DEM	GOP	IND	DEM	GOP	IND	DEM	GOP	IND	DEM
Total Believe	57%	73%	85%	57%	74%	87%	51%	73%	86%	55%	69%	87%
Total Not Believe	23%	9%	2%	17%	7%	3%	27%	6%	3%	20%	11%	2%

Likely Voters Want to Maintain and Improve Existing Regulations

- Roughly three-in-five likely voters in each state want to maintain and improve existing regulations.

	Colorado	Nevada	Ohio	Tennessee
Maintain and Improve Existing Regulations	66%	64%	61%	57%
Roll Back Regulations	9%	8%	12%	14%

- A majority of self-identified Independents and a strong plurality of Republicans support maintaining and improving existing regulations on energy companies.

	Colorado			Nevada			Ohio			Tennessee		
	GOP	IND	DEM	GOP	IND	DEM	GOP	IND	DEM	GOP	IND	DEM
Maintain and Improve Existing Regulations	52%	63%	83%	48%	67%	80%	40%	59%	85%	43%	56%	81%
Roll Back Regulations	17%	7%	4%	20%	4%	2%	26%	8%	2%	22%	14%	3%

Likely Voters Support Reducing Emissions and Encouraging Energy Efficiency

Likely voters in each state support federal action on a range of efforts to make domestic energy cleaner and more efficient. This includes policies to advance energy efficiency technologies and those that seek to reduce emissions. Further, a strong majority across all four states polled believe the government should focus on updating and simplifying regulations instead of cutting them.

	Colorado		Nevada		Ohio		Tennessee	
	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose
Government policies should encourage energy efficiency in buildings and homes to stimulate job creation, generate energy savings for ratepayers, as well as benefit the environment and public health.	82%	6%	80%	5%	82%	5%	78%	6%
Government should focus on updating and simplifying regulations instead of cutting them to allow for increased development of newer and cleaner energy sources like wind, solar, natural gas, and nuclear.	77%	9%	75%	11%	72%	10%	73%	7%

<p>The government should incentivize the development of clean energy technologies like wind, solar, and nuclear to ensure they can compete on a level playing field with fossil fuels.</p>	73%	10%	71%	7%	75%	8%	69%	12%
<p>For renewable energy sources to reach the maximum potential the federal government should join with private companies to invest in research and development of advanced industrial battery technology that can store the energy produced from wind and solar to be utilized throughout the day and night.</p>	76%	7%	68%	8%	71%	9%	69%	10%
<p>Many companies are producing products to reduce methane emissions. Many of these products have been proven to pay for themselves by preventing the loss of natural gas. These advances mean real investment into our energy infrastructure, real jobs for Americans, and a real positive impact on our economy.</p>	77%	3%	76%	3%	72%	3%	76%	2%
<p>While we would prefer to see rules like these enacted through the legislative process, the fact is that these standards are in line with the conservative principles of protecting the taxpayer, effectively managing our national resources, promoting market-based solutions, and being a responsible steward of the environment.</p>	57%	10%	49%	13%	56%	9%	56%	11%
<p>Some drilling and extraction practices and technologies have not kept up with current innovations, which are proven to prevent or reduce the waste of natural gas resources from our federal lands every day. This lack of investment means fewer resources are making it to market to promote U.S.</p>	53%	13%	56%	13%	51%	14%	49%	16%

energy independence, fewer royalties to the taxpayer and to states, and fewer dollars back into our economy.

Conclusion

Likely Voters favor the Federal Government taking steps to reduce emission of gases like carbon dioxide and methane emissions that cause climate change, and believe that natural gas leaks are harming the environment. Likely Voters also favor maintaining and improving existing regulations, as well as support regulations to require all oil and gas producers who operate on national public lands to use updated equipment and technology. The results clearly show that support for these statements remains strong among Republicans, Independents, and Democrats.

About WPA

Since 1998, WPA has been a leading provider of political polling for Republican campaigns from President to Governor and U.S. Senate to Mayor and City Council in all 50 states and several foreign countries. In the 2015-2016 election cycle, 87% of WPA clients won. WPA clients' win ratio has exceeded the standard by double digits for four straight political cycles.

WPA has been nationally recognized for providing cutting edge research to help our clients win. The American Association of Political Consultants (AAPC) awarded a "Pollie" to WPA for our Predictive Analytics and Adaptive Sampling techniques. The award highlighted these advanced methodologies which allowed us to buck national polling trends and deliver industry-leading results.

In addition to our political and policy research, WPA has conducted market research for more than 120 United States Fortune 500 corporations, donor research for more than 250 of the largest and most successful not-for-profit organizations around the country, and alumni research for dozens of colleges and universities.

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