



BENENSON STRATEGY GROUP

14 EAST 60TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10022
TEL 212 702 8777 FAX 212 750 6518

TO: Interested parties
FROM: Joel Benenson
DATE: July 14th, 2010
RE: Latest poll results summary

- As the Senate prepares to act on an energy bill, our latest poll confirms that voters strongly support comprehensive action on energy and carbon pollution. We asked voters about: “an energy and climate bill that would limit pollution, invest in domestic energy sources and encourage companies to use and develop clean energy. It would do this in part by charging energy companies for carbon pollution in electricity or fuels like gas” and:
 - ✓ 60% of likely 2010 voters support it and just 35% are opposed.
 - ✓ Among Democrats: 83% support, 10% oppose.
 - ✓ Among Independents: 56% support, 38% oppose.
 - ✓ Among Republicans: 42% support, 54% oppose.

- Voters enter this debate already believing that the federal government should be doing more to accomplish both of the main goals of the bill:
 - ✓ 67% believe the federal government should be doing more when it comes to regulating corporate polluters and only 14% say it should be doing less.
 - ✓ 65% say the federal government should invest more in clean energy sources and only 19% say it should invest less.

- Voters also reject the opposition’s position that “now is not the time.” In the aftermath of the spill, people firmly believe Congress needs to do more than just make BP pay. Even when pressed with false opposition attacks that this is a “job-killing energy tax”, voters support action:
 - ✓ Just 36% agree with: “We need to ensure that BP pays every last dime of the damages they’ve caused, but beyond that, Senators should focus on getting our economy back on track and creating jobs, not passing some huge new Washington program and job-killing energy tax.”
 - ✓ 56% agree with: “BP must pay for the damage they’ve done. But our addiction to oil threatens our security and we need more than a band-aid for that. Senators need to pass real reforms to hold polluters accountable and invest in clean American energy.”

➤ Even in the face of harsh opposition messaging, support for the energy bill stays strong. After hearing the following two messages (rotated), 57% of likely 2010 voters support the bill and just 33% oppose it.

Opposition text: This "Cap and Tax" bill is nothing more than a massive job-killing energy tax on gasoline. It taxes families just to commute to work or drive their kids to school, and taxes farmers and small businesses for their daily operations. We should be investing in domestic energy sources that reduce our dependence on foreign oil. But this bill hurts average Americans and gives special deals to oil companies like BP, who support the bill. First the bailouts, then health care now Congress wants another \$3.4 trillion for a wasteful Washington program that will kill jobs across the country.

Supporter text: Oil companies and lobbyists have fought energy reform for decades with deception and scare tactics to protect their profits. But America can't afford another \$20 billion oil spill catastrophe. And we can't afford to keep sending a billion dollars a day overseas for foreign oil. It hurts our economy, helps our enemies and puts our security at risk. Congress needs to stand up to the oil companies and special interests funding their campaigns. They need to pass real reform that puts America back in control of its energy situation - with clean energy sources that are made in America and work for America.

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The Benenson Strategy Group conducted a nationwide poll of 807 likely 2010 voters nationwide by telephone using a sample of registered voters. Interviews were conducted from July 6-8, 2010. The margin of error for the entire data set is $\pm 3.45\%$ at the 95% confidence level. It is higher among subgroups.