

TO: Interested Parties
 FROM: Global Strategy Group
 DATE: June 1, 2016
 RE: **Strong Majority of Americans Support New Methane Regulations**

By wide margins, American voters want stricter air pollution standards, and favor the Environmental Protection Agency’s recently announced limits on methane pollution from the oil and gas industry. This support extends across nearly all demographic and partisan groups (Republican voters are split on methane limits). Furthermore, opinions are robust, as support for the new methane limits holds steady after voters hear a simulated debate on the issue that includes opposition messaging currently being used by industry opponents.

Key findings from Global Strategy Group’s recent poll of 764 registered voters nationwide conducted for the American Lung Association are as follows:

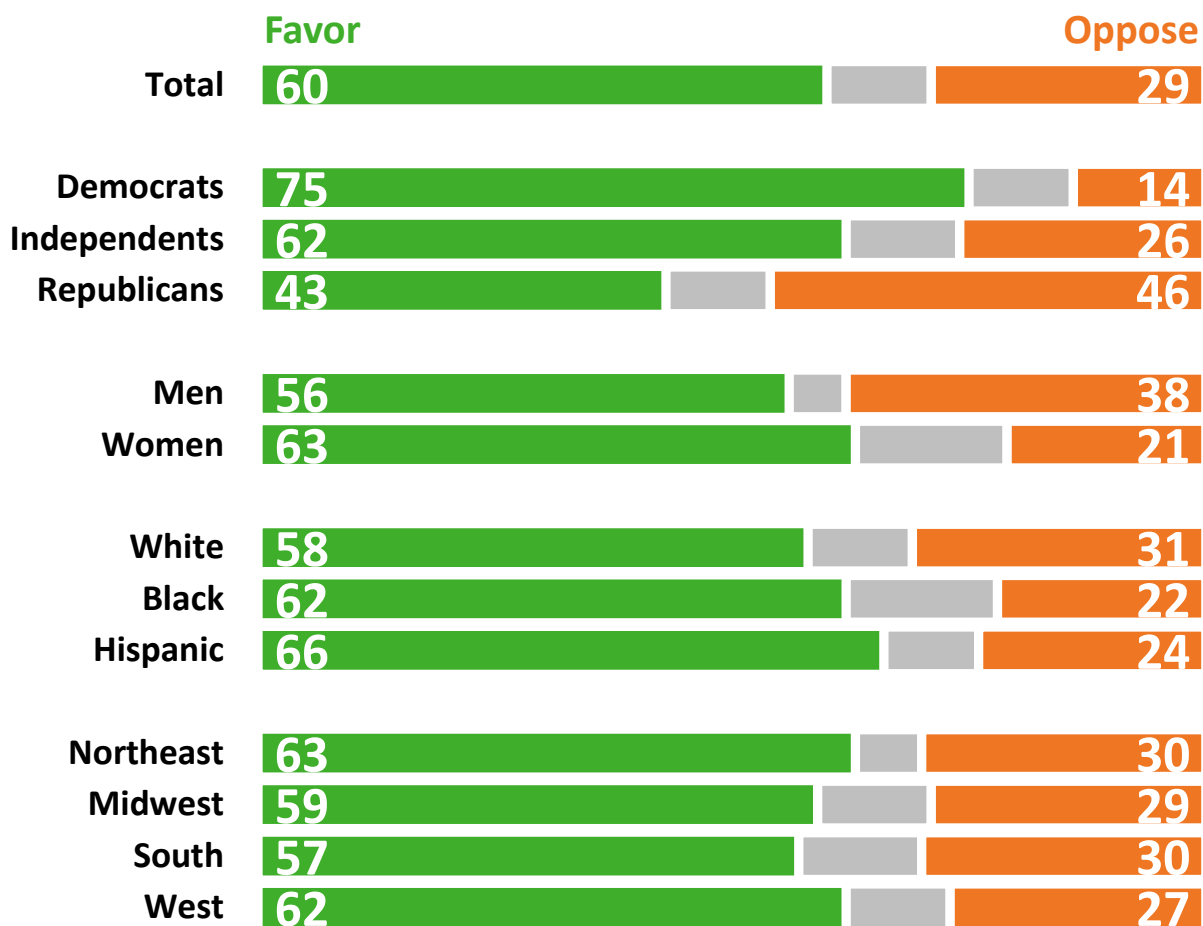
The overwhelming majority of voters want to see stricter air pollution standards. Two-thirds of voters favor the EPA updating standards with stricter limits on air pollution, outnumbering those who oppose it by forty points (66% favor/26% oppose). Democrats and independents favored stricter limits by even wider margins while Republicans oppose them by a narrow, seven-point margin.

Generally speaking, do you favor or oppose the Environmental Protection Agency updating standards with stricter limits on air pollution?



By a two-to-one margin, voters support the EPA’s newly announced regulations on methane emissions from the oil and gas industry. Three-fifths of voters favor these regulations (60% favor/29% oppose). This broad support extends across nearly every demographic groups and all regions of the country, and again Democrats and independents favor the EPA’s new limits by wide margins while Republicans are split evenly.

As you may know, last week the Environmental Protection Agency announced limits on methane emissions from new oil and gas facilities for the first time. Do you favor or oppose these limits on methane emissions from new oil and gas facilities?



This support is robust, holding steady after voters hear arguments on both sides. After voters hear a message in favor of the EPA’s regulations and a message in opposition to the regulations (which includes language currently being used by industry opponents), support remains largely unchanged at 59% and still outpaces opposition by 25 points.

Supporters say: Leaky oil and gas facilities emit methane pollution that is 80 times more potent than carbon pollution, spew toxic pollutants that cause cancer and childhood asthma attacks, and waste billions of dollars’ worth of natural gas. The EPA’s new limits will stop the big oil and gas companies from spewing hundreds of thousands of tons of this dangerous pollution in our communities and prevent this waste of American energy by requiring the industry to use proven, low-cost fixes to stop these leaks.

Opponents say: American natural gas is good for our economy and our environment. It’s a cheap and plentiful resource that burns clean, powering America towards a clean energy future. The natural gas industry has already cut methane emissions by over 38 percent and is working to cut more. Imposing a one-size-fits all scheme on the industry could stifle innovation, reduce the production of American energy, cost thousands of jobs, and increase the cost of energy for American consumers and businesses.

Once again...do you favor or oppose the EPA limits on methane emissions from new oil and gas facilities?



*Respondents heard the messages in random order.

ABOUT THESE DATA

Global Strategy Group partnered with Princeton Survey Research Associates International to include these questions on a nationwide survey conducted from May 19th to 22nd, 2016, among 1,002 adults, including 764 registered voters. The margin of error at the 95% confidence level is +/- 4.3 percentage points among registered voters. Care has been taken to ensure that the partisan, geographic, and demographic divisions of the nationwide electorate are properly represented by the survey’s respondents.