



TO: Interested Parties
FR: Paragon Insights
DT: October 21, 2014
RE: Colorado Survey Results On Voter Opinions Of EPA Carbon Emissions

On behalf of the Partnership for a Better Energy Future, Paragon Insights conducted a statewide survey of 867 likely voters in Colorado October 3-9, 2014. The interviews were conducted using both telephone and online methodologies. The data were weighted to approximate a target sample of likely voters based on age, race/ethnicity, gender, political party affiliation and cellular/landline telephone status. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 3.0 percentage points.

BOTTOM LINE:

- ✓ A majority of Colorado voters believe the United States cannot afford new costs and potential job losses resulting from the EPA regulations — 51% of voters agree
- ✓ A plurality of voters oppose the regulations, including 29% who say they strongly oppose them (versus 19% who strongly support them).
- ✓ Nearly 50% of Colorado voters say they are not willing to pay \$1 more for energy under the EPA regulations.
- ✓ Supporting the regulations is politically risky – 41% of Colorado voters say they are less likely to vote for a candidate who supports the EPA regulations, versus just 26% who say they are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the regulations.
- ✓ A majority of Colorado voters are aware of the EPA regulations to reduce carbon emissions - but awareness is soft, as just 20% say they have heard “a lot” about the regulations.

KEY DATA

A majority of Colorado voters are aware of the EPA regulations, but that awareness is soft— 57% of voters say they have heard about the regulations, although just 20% indicate they have heard a lot, suggesting opinions on this issue are still malleable – and as the data indicates, voters are quicker to oppose the regulations than support them. Men, millennials and Republicans are more familiar with the EPA regulations than their counterparts.

Upon learning of the potential job losses and possibility of energy rationing, a majority of voters are less likely to support the regulations— 56% of Colorado voters say they are less likely to support the regulations after learning that the EPA regulations could cause job losses in the state, including 36% who say they are much less likely to support the regulations. Further, 56% of voters

say they are less likely to support the EPA regulations after learning they could lead to energy rationing during extreme weather events, including 35% who say they are much less likely.

A plurality of Colorado voters are opposed to the EPA regulations— 48% of voters are against the EPA regulations, with 29% strongly opposed, while 38% support the regulations with just 19% strongly supporting them. Men, seniors, and middle class voters are the most strongly opposed to the regulations.

A strong majority of Colorado voters believe the government should weigh all costs and benefits when creating new environmental regulations — 75% of voters say the government should weigh all costs/benefits when creating new environmental regulations, while just 17% say the government should improve the environment at any cost.

Nearly 1/2 of voters say they are not willing to pay a single dollar more in their energy bill to accommodate the new EPA regulations— 47% of Colorado voters say they are not willing to pay any more on their monthly energy bill and 46% of voters say they are not willing to pay any more on their total energy bill.

A majority of Colorado voters believe the United States cannot afford new costs and potential job losses resulting from the EPA regulations — 51% of voters agree that the U.S. cannot afford these new costs while just 35% say the U.S. must be a leader in addressing global climate change regardless of cost or impact to the economy.

A plurality of Colorado voters believe the U.S. should address climate change only in conjunction with other countries or not address climate change at all— 45% of voters believe the U.S. should address climate change only with other nations or not at all, while 40% believe the U.S. should address climate change regardless of what other nations are doing.

Colorado voters are less likely to vote for a candidate who supports the EPA regulations— 41% of voters are less likely to vote for a candidate who supports the regulations while 26% are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the regulations.

A plurality of Colorado voters believe that Colorado/local officials are better equipped to make decisions on carbon emissions instead of the federal government—48% of voters believe that Colorado and local officials are best equipped to make decisions on regulations to reduce carbon emissions, compared to 18% who say the Obama administration is best equipped and 15% who say Congress is best equipped.

A strong majority of Colorado voters believe President Obama should work with Congress to create a climate change agreement—Fully 62% of voters believe President Obama should work with Congress to create a climate change agreement, while just 19% believe the President should take executive action to create an agreement.