



TO: Interested Parties
FR: Paragon Insights
DT: October 21, 2014
RE: Kentucky 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 851 likely voters in Kentucky 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 Kentucky voters believe the United States cannot afford new costs and potential job losses resulting from the EPA regulations — 64% of voters agree
- ✓ A majority of voters oppose the regulations, including 39% who say they strongly oppose them (versus 12% who strongly support them).
- ✓ A majority of Kentucky voters say they are not willing to pay \$1 more for energy under the EPA regulations.
- ✓ Supporting the regulations is politically risky – 49% of Kentucky voters say they are less likely to vote for a candidate who supports the EPA regulations, versus just 17% who say they are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the regulations.
- ✓ A majority of Kentucky voters are aware of the EPA regulations to reduce carbon emissions - but awareness is soft, as just 26% say they have heard “a lot” about the regulations.

KEY DATA

A majority of Kentucky voters are aware of the EPA regulations, but that awareness is soft— 60% of voters say they have heard about the regulations, although just 26% 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 impact on vulnerable Americans, job losses and possibility of energy rationing, a majority of Kentucky voters are less likely to support the regulations— 54% of Kentucky voters say they are less likely to support the regulations upon learning of the potential increase in electricity costs for low-income Americans and seniors, including 39% who say they are much less likely. 50% of Kentucky voters are less likely to support the regulations after

learning that the EPA regulations could cause job losses in their state, including 35% who say they are much less likely to support the regulations. Further, 50% 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 36% who say they are much less likely.

A majority of Kentucky voters are opposed to the EPA regulations— 60% of voters are against the EPA regulations, with 39% strongly opposed, while 28% support the regulations with just 12% strongly supporting them. Men, seniors, and middle class voters are the most strongly opposed to the regulations.

A strong majority of Kentucky voters believe the government should weigh all costs and benefits when creating new environmental regulations — 72% of voters say the government should weigh all costs/benefits when creating new environmental regulations, while just 15% say the government should improve the environment at any cost.

A majority of Kentucky voters say they are not willing to pay a single dollar more in their energy bill to accommodate the new EPA regulations— 51% of Kentucky voters say they are not willing to pay any more on their monthly energy bill and 57% of voters say they are not willing to pay any more on their total energy bill.

A majority of Kentucky voters believe the United States cannot afford new costs and potential job losses resulting from the EPA regulations — 64% of voters agree that the U.S. cannot afford these new costs while just 21% say the U.S. must be a leader in addressing global climate change regardless of cost or impact to the economy.

A plurality of Kentucky voters believe the U.S. should address climate change only in conjunction with other countries or not address climate change at all— 48% of voters believe the U.S. should address climate change only with other nations or not at all, while 36% believe the U.S. should address climate change regardless of what other nations are doing.

Kentucky voters are less likely to vote for a candidate who supports the EPA regulations— 49% of voters are less likely to vote for a candidate who supports the regulations while 17% are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the regulations.

A plurality of Kentucky voters believe that Kentucky/local officials are better equipped to make decisions on carbon emissions instead of the federal government—42% of voters believe that Kentucky and local officials are best equipped to make decisions on regulations to reduce carbon emissions, compared to 12% who say the Obama administration is best equipped and 17% who say Congress is best equipped.

A strong majority of Kentucky voters believe President Obama should work with Congress to create a climate change agreement—Fully 67% of voters believe President Obama should work with Congress to create a climate change agreement, while just 10% believe the President should take executive action to create an agreement.