



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

---

On behalf of the Partnership for a Better Energy Future, Paragon Insights conducted a national survey of 1,340 likely voters 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 2.7 percentage points.

**BOTTOM LINE:**

- ✓ A majority of voters believe the United States cannot afford new costs and potential job losses resulting from the EPA regulations — 54% of voters agree
- ✓ A plurality of voters oppose the regulations, including nearly 1/3 who say they strongly oppose them (versus 19% who strongly support them).
- ✓ Nearly 50% of voters say they are not willing to pay \$1 more for energy under the EPA regulations.
- ✓ Supporting the regulations is politically risky - nearly 4 in 10 voters say they are less likely to vote for a candidate who supports the EPA regulations, versus just 22% who say they are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the regulations.
- ✓ A majority of voters nationally are aware of the EPA regulations to reduce carbon emissions - but awareness is soft, as just 19% say they have heard “a lot” about the regulations.

**KEY DATA**

***A majority of voters are aware of the EPA regulations, but that awareness is soft—*** 55% of voters say they have heard about the regulations, although just 19% 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—*** 52% of voters say they 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, 52% 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 34% who say they are much less likely.

***A plurality of voters are opposed to the EPA regulations***— 47% of voters are against the EPA regulations, with 31% strongly opposed, while 44% support the regulations with just 19% strongly supporting them. Men, seniors, and middle class voters are the most strongly opposed to the regulations.

***More than 2/3 of voters believe the government should weigh all costs and benefits when creating new environmental regulations*** — 70% of voters say the government should weigh all costs/benefits when creating new environmental regulations, while just 20% 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***— 45% of voters say they are not willing to pay any more on their monthly energy bill and 54% of voters say they are not willing to pay any more on their total energy bill.

***A majority of voters believe the United States cannot afford new costs and potential job losses resulting from the EPA regulations*** — 54% of voters agree that the U.S. cannot afford these new costs while just 30% say the U.S. must be a leader in addressing global climate change regardless of cost or impact to the economy.

***Nearly one half of voters believe the U.S. should address climate change only in conjunction with other countries or not address climate change at all***— 49% of voters believe the U.S. should address climate change only with other nations or not at all, while 32% believe the U.S. should address climate change regardless of what other nations are doing.

***Nearly 4 in 10 voters are less likely to vote for a candidate who supports the EPA regulations***— 39% of voters are less likely to vote for a candidate who supports the regulations while 22% are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the regulations.

***A plurality of voters believe that state/local officials are better equipped to make decisions on carbon emissions instead of the federal government***—44% of voters believe that state 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 voters believe President Obama should work with Congress to create a climate change agreement***—Fully 59% of voters believe President Obama should work with Congress to create a climate change agreement, while 19% believe the President should take executive action to create an agreement.