



TO: Interested Parties
FR: Paragon Insights
DT: October 21, 2014
RE: Virginia 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 921 likely voters in Virginia 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 Virginia voters believe the United States cannot afford new costs and potential job losses resulting from the EPA regulations — 53% of voters agree
- ✓ A plurality of voters oppose the regulations, including 24% who say they strongly oppose them (versus 18% 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 – 34% of Virginia voters say they are less likely to vote for a candidate who supports the EPA regulations, versus just 24% who say they are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the regulations.
- ✓ A majority of Virginia voters are aware of the EPA regulations to reduce carbon emissions - but awareness is soft, as just 21% say they have heard “a lot” about the regulations.

KEY DATA

A majority of Virginia voters are aware of the EPA regulations, but that awareness is soft— 58% of voters say they have heard about the regulations, although just 21% 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— 57% of Virginia voters say they are less likely to support the regulations after learning that the EPA regulations could cause job losses in their state, including 38% who say they are much less likely to support the regulations. Further, 57% 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 40% who say they are much less likely.

A plurality of Virginia voters are opposed to the EPA regulations— 43% of voters are against the EPA regulations, with 24% strongly opposed, while 42% support the regulations with just 18% strongly supporting them. Men, seniors, and middle class voters are the most strongly opposed to the regulations.

A strong majority of Virginia voters believe the government should weigh all costs and benefits when creating new environmental regulations — 73% 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.

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— 44% of Virginia voters say they are not willing to pay any more on their monthly energy bill and 45% of voters say they are not willing to pay any more on their total energy bill.

A majority of Virginia voters believe the United States cannot afford new costs and potential job losses resulting from the EPA regulations — 53% of voters agree that the U.S. cannot afford these new costs while just 31% say the U.S. must be a leader in addressing global climate change regardless of cost or impact to the economy.

30% of Virginia 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.

Virginia voters are less likely to vote for a candidate who supports the EPA regulations— 34% of voters are less likely to vote for a candidate who supports the regulations while 24% are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the regulations.

A plurality of Virginia voters believe that state/local officials are better equipped to make decisions on carbon emissions instead of the federal government— 42% of voters believe that state and local officials are best equipped to make decisions on regulations to reduce carbon emissions, compared to 21% who say the Obama administration is best equipped and 15% who say Congress is best equipped.

A strong majority of Virginia voters believe President Obama should work with Congress to create a climate change agreement—Fully 63% of voters believe President Obama should work with Congress to create a climate change agreement, while just 17% believe the President should take executive action to create an agreement.