

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Geoff Garin
DATE: March 24, 2011
RE: Poll Shows Strong Support For EPA Setting New Standards To Limit Carbon Pollution; Opposition To Congress Imposing Delay

This memorandum outlines the key findings of a survey conducted among a representative sample of 1,501 voters in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan. Interviews were conducted by telephone from February 18 and 22, 2011.

I. When it comes to deciding whether there should be new standards to limit carbon pollution from power plants and other industrial facilities, voters in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan trust the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency more than they trust Congress to make this determination. Three in five (63%) voters in the three midwestern states say they trust the EPA more than Congress to decide whether there should be new standards for carbon pollution. Only 18% say they trust Congress more than the EPA.

➤ By large margins, voters of all political parties trust the EPA more than they trust Congress. Democrats trust the EPA over Congress by 77% to 11%, independent voters do so by 63% to 12%, and Republicans by 48% to 28%.

II. Two-thirds (64%) of voters in the three midwestern states support the EPA setting new standards that limit carbon pollution from power plants and other industrial facilities. This support spans the electorate:

➤ 71% of women voters and 55% of male voters support the EPA setting new standards.

➤ Among Democrats 81% support and 12% oppose the EPA setting new standards, 57% of independent voters support and 28% oppose, and Republican voters are divided, with 46% supporting and the same proportion opposing the EPA setting new standards.

➤ Solid pockets of support exist, however, within the Republican electorate: 56% of Republican women support the EPA setting new standards compared with 35% who oppose it, moderate and liberal Republicans support the EPA setting new standards by 61% to 28%, and among somewhat conservative Republicans 48% support it and 45% oppose the new standards.

III. By a large margin, voters in the three midwestern states oppose Congress imposing a two-year delay on the EPA's ability to regulate carbon pollution. Three in five (62%) say Congress should NOT intervene to stop the EPA from taking action during the next two years (44% feel *strongly* that Congress should not intervene), and only 31% say that Congress should stop the EPA from taking action to limit carbon pollution over the next two years.

- Opposition to Congress intervening is strongest among Democrats (78% oppose) and independent voters (58% oppose). Republicans are divided on the issue. Opposition is stronger, however, among moderate and liberal Republicans (67% oppose Congress intervening) and Republican women (59% oppose Congress intervening).

IV. Regarding the potential impact of new standards on carbon pollution, voters are just as likely to believe new standards that limit carbon pollution will have a positive impact on jobs and the economy (33%) as those who think that new standards will have a negative impact on jobs and the economy (35%). Women (38%) are more likely than men (27%) to think that new standards will have a positive impact on jobs.