



TO: League of Conservation Voters  
 FROM: Joel Benenson, Amy Levin  
 RE: Missouri Poll Results  
 DATE: July 6, 2010

- Likely voters in Missouri’s 2010 elections overwhelmingly support stronger regulations on corporate polluters and increased investment in clean energy.
  - ✓ 62% say the federal government should regulate corporate polluters more than it currently does, while just 18% say there should be less regulation and 20% say regulation should stay the same.
  - ✓ 59% say the federal government should be investing more than it currently invests in clean energy sources, while just 21% say they should be investing less and 20% say investment should stay the same.
  
- In the wake of the oil spill, a majority of voters believe that Congress needs to do more than just make BP pay. When asked which they agree with more:
  - ✓ 51% overall and 54% of Independents say: “BP must pay for the damage they’ve done. But our addiction to oil threatens our security and we need more than a band-aid for that. Senators need to pass real reforms to hold polluters accountable and invest in clean American energy.”
  - ✓ 43% overall and just 39% of Independents agree that: “We need to ensure that BP pays every last dime of the damages they’ve caused, but beyond that, Senators should focus on our economy and jobs and they’d be wrong to use this tragedy to pass some huge new Washington job-killing energy tax.”
  
- Consequently, there is a wide margin of support for a comprehensive energy and climate bill. When asked about “an energy and climate bill that will limit pollution, invest in domestic energy sources and encourage companies to use and develop clean energy. It would do this in part by charging energy companies for carbon pollution in electricity or fuels like gas:”
  - ✓ 55% of Missouri voters support the bill and 40% oppose it.
  - ✓ A majority of Independents support the bill, Democrats are consolidated in their support and even 1 in 3 Republicans supports it.

**Support For Energy Bill Overall And By Party ID**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>GOP</b>
<b>Support</b>	55	85	54	33
<b>Oppose</b>	40	10	41	62

- Support for the bill holds even in the face of harsh opposition attacks.
  - ✓ After hearing the two messages below (rotated), 51% of Missouri voters support the bill and only 40% oppose it.

Opposition text: This "Cap and Tax" bill is nothing more than a job-killing energy tax. It puts a huge new tax on gasoline, driving up the price you pay right at the pump, which is the last thing our economy needs right now. This bill will cost middle class families, who are already struggling to get by, \$2,000 a year. First the bailouts, then health care...now Congress wants another \$660 billion of taxpayers' hard-earned money for a wasteful Washington program that will kill jobs across the country.

Supporter text: Oil companies and lobbyists have fought energy reform for decades to protect their profits. But America can't afford another \$20 billion oil spill catastrophe. And we can't afford to keep sending a billion dollars a day overseas for foreign oil. It hurts our economy, helps our enemies and puts our security at risk. Congress needs to stand up to the oil companies funding their campaigns. They need to pass real reform that puts America back in control of its energy situation – with clean energy that's made in America and creates jobs for Americans.

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*The Benenson Strategy Group conducted 600 interviews with registered voters in Missouri who are likely to vote in the 2010 election for U.S. Congress. Interviews were conducted on June 22-27, 2010. All interviews were conducted by telephone using a sample of registered voters. The entire data set has a margin of error of ±4.00% at the 95% confidence level, and it is larger among subgroups.*