



## MEMO: AMERICANS STRONGLY SUPPORT CLIMATE ACTION

### GROWING MAJORITY OF AMERICANS ACCEPT THE THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

**2 In 3 Americans Believe That Climate Change Is A Serious Problem.** An August 2015 LCV poll found that 67 percent of Americans consider climate change to be a serious problem, including 34 percent who consider it a very serious problem. [LCV, [August 2015](#)]

**Doubts About Climate Change Are At Record Lows Among Americans.** An October 2015 University of Michigan poll found that “for the first time since 2008 at least 7 out of 10 Americans indicate that they believe there is solid evidence of global warming over the past four decades. This 70% belief level is the second highest mark in the history of the National Surveys on Energy and the Environment (NSEE) falling just short of the 72% record level reported in Fall 2008. This increased level of acceptance of evidence of global warming coincides with the lowest percentage of Americans expressing doubt in solid evidence of global warming in the history of the NSEE. The Fall 2015 survey shows that only 16% of adult Americans currently believe there is not solid evidence of global warming, a mark 1% lower than the previous record of 17% recorded in Fall 2008.” [Univ. of Michigan, [October 2015](#)]

**Nearly 2 In 3 Americans – A Record High – Believe That Human Activities Are The Primary Cause Of Climate Change.** A March 2016 Gallup poll found that “65% of Americans now saying increases in the Earth's temperature over the last century are primarily attributable to human activities rather than natural causes. This represents a striking 10-percentage-point increase in the past year and is four points above the previous high of 61% in 2007.” [Gallup, [3/16/16](#)]

### AMERICANS WANT CLEAN ENERGY & ACCESS TO CLEAN AIR AND CLEAN WATER

**80 Percent Of Millennials Want America To Transition To Clean Energy In The Next Few Years; 80 Percent Also Agree That The Government Should Regulate Industry To Ensure Clean Air And Clean Water.** A January 2016 Rock the Vote / USA Today survey found that 80 percent of millennials agree that America should transition to mostly clean or renewable energy by 2030, including 49 percent who strongly agreed with the sentiment. The survey also found that nearly 49 percent who strongly agreed with the sentiment. The survey also found that 78 percent of millennials agree that the government should regulate industry to protect air and water. [Rock the Vote / USA Today, [January 2016](#)]

**3 In 5 Americans Support The Clean Power Plan, Including 58 Percent Of Independents.** An August 2015 LCV poll found that a powerful majority of American voters favor the final version of the Clean Power Plan; in fact, support trumps opposition by nearly two to one. Fully 60% of voters say they support the plan, while just 31% oppose it. In an important sign of momentum for the plan—those who strongly support this plan outnumber those who strongly oppose it by eight percentage points (27% to 19%). The Clean Power Plan enjoys broad support from a majority of Democrats (77-16) and Independents (58-24), and non-conservative Republicans (56-28). [LCV, [8/13/15](#)]

**4 In 5 Americans Support The Clean Water Rule, And Oppose Congressional Efforts To Block It.** A May 2015 LCV poll found that fully 80 percent of Americans support the Clean Water Rule, including 50% who strongly support it. Support for the Clean Water Rule is rooted in the priority that voters place on water pollution and the personal concern that many have about this issue. The potential impact that the rule would have on the nation's drinking water supply and on future generations are the considerations they deem most important in deciding the merits of the rule. A large majority of voters think that the federal government should be doing more to protect the nation's waters from pollution. More importantly, by a wide margin (79-12), voters do not want Congress to block the Clean Water Rule, and a large majority (69-17) say they would feel less favorable toward a senator who voted against the rule. [LCV, [5/18/15](#)]

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