

TO: Interested Parties
 FROM: Andrew Baumann, Global Strategy Group & Christine Matthews, Bellwether Research and Consulting
 DATE: November 21, 2017
 RE: **Bipartisan Survey Findings: Opposition to GOP tax plan, Arctic Refuge drilling is strong in key districts**

According to a new bipartisan survey conducted by Global Strategy Group and Bellwether Research, across a diverse set of GOP-held Congressional districts, a large majority – including many Republicans – oppose the Republican tax plan and a proposal in Congress that will allow oil and gas companies to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. There are intensely negative feelings for Donald Trump across these districts, and the members of Congress for each can expect a backlash from their constituents if they support his agenda.

Opposition to drilling crosses generational and educational lines and only the most conservative elements of the Republican Party support drilling. In a balanced debate, pro-drilling arguments lose overwhelmingly to the anti-drilling position and most remain firmly against opening the Arctic Refuge to oil production. Members of Congress in these districts who vote for drilling risk raising the ire of their constituents with the bulk in each of them saying that they will be less favorable toward those who vote yes.

KEY SURVEY FINDINGS:

- **Trump’s tax plan faces solid opposition across the board with few in favor of it passing:** There is little support for the Republican tax plan currently under consideration in Congress. Opposition out-paces support in each of these key districts.

Support for the Trump and GOP Tax Plan									
		CA-49	FL-18	ME-02	NY-19	NY-21	PA-06	PA-07	PA-08
	Total	Issa	Mast	Poliquin	Faso	Stefanik	Costello	Meehan	Fitzpatrick
Support	34	37	37	31	28	30	36	35	34
Oppose	48	48	39	49	55	49	51	47	49
<i>Net Support</i>	<i>-14</i>	<i>-11</i>	<i>-2</i>	<i>-18</i>	<i>-27</i>	<i>-19</i>	<i>-15</i>	<i>-12</i>	<i>-15</i>

- **Large majorities oppose drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge:** Opposition to opening the Arctic Refuge up to drilling is in the double-digits across this diverse set of Congressional districts.

Initial support for proposal to allow drilling in Arctic Refuge in Alaska									
		CA-49	FL-18	ME-02	NY-19	NY-21	PA-06	PA-07	PA-08
	Total	Issa	Mast	Poliquin	Faso	Stefanik	Costello	Meehan	Fitzpatrick
Support	29	31	29	24	25	27	31	30	34
Oppose	61	57	55	64	68	62	58	63	57
<i>Net Support</i>	<i>-32</i>	<i>-26</i>	<i>-26</i>	<i>-40</i>	<i>-43</i>	<i>-35</i>	<i>-27</i>	<i>-33</i>	<i>-23</i>

- **Opposition to drilling extends across partisan lines and demographic groups:** The combined results show that Democrats (-69 support) and independents (-36 support) come out strongly against drilling in the Arctic Refuge. Support for drilling among Republicans is centered only among conservative Republicans (+30 support). Less conservative Republicans are firmly opposed (-43 support). Opposition is also stiff regardless of age (-31 support among under age 55; -32 support among age 55 or older) and education level (-26 support among non-college; -39 support among college), including among white non-college (-25 support).
- **Pro-drilling arguments fail to persuade and most clearly favor the anti-drilling position:** When constituents hear arguments on each side, the anti-drilling argument wins over a strong pro-drilling argument in every district. Large majorities still strongly oppose drilling with margins against ranging from 15 to 44 points.

Supporters of the proposal say opening the Arctic Refuge to responsible energy development will create thousands of jobs, generate billions in revenue, lower the deficit, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Exploration would be limited to a small portion of the Refuge and innovations in drilling technology mean there is less risk to the environment. Alaskans support drilling because it will create up to 130 thousand jobs. This is a win-win opportunity and Washington D.C. should not be telling Alaska what they can and can't do.

Opponents of the proposal say drilling in the Arctic Refuge would devastate the largest area of protected wilderness left in America. It would create a vast industrial complex of wells, pipelines, and potential leaks that would ruin this pristine landscape and put iconic wildlife at risk. At a time when the U.S. leads the world in oil and gas production and oil companies are making record profits, it is not necessary to drill here since oil companies already hold hundreds of leases they aren't using on productive land just outside the Refuge.

Post-debate support for proposal to allow drilling in Arctic Refuge in Alaska

		CA-49	FL-18	ME-02	NY-19	NY-21	PA-06	PA-07	PA-08
	Total	Issa	Mast	Poliquin	Faso	Stefanik	Costello	Meehan	Fitzpatrick
Support	32	33	39	26	26	29	36	33	37
Oppose	62	59	54	66	70	65	58	63	58
Net Support	-30	-26	-15	-40	-44	-36	-22	-30	-21

- **A vote to open Arctic Refuge to drilling will generate a backlash from constituents:** Many, including huge majorities in several districts, say they will be less favorable toward their member of Congress if they support drilling in the Arctic Refuge even when their member is mentioned by name.

Change in favorability of members of Congress if support drilling in Arctic Refuge in Alaska

	CA-49	FL-18	ME-02	NY-19	NY-21	PA-06	PA-07	PA-08
	Issa	Mast	Poliquin	Faso	Stefanik	Costello	Meehan	Fitzpatrick
More favorable	27	28	19	21	25	26	22	33
Less favorable	57	49	64	68	58	54	62	52
Don't know	15	23	16	12	17	20	16	15
Net change	-30	-21	-45	-47	-33	-28	-40	-19

- **Trump is deeply unpopular and members of Congress are wise to oppose his agenda:** With one narrow exception, Trump's numbers are underwater across all of these districts, and those holding intensely negative feelings for him approach or exceed a majority in each.

Donald Trump Personal Popularity									
	CA-49	FL-18	ME-02	NY-19	NY-21	PA-06	PA-07	PA-08	
	Total	Issa	Mast	Poliquin	Faso	Stefanik	Costello	Meehan	Fitzpatrick
Favorable	41	41	48	39	35	41	39	41	43
Unfavorable	55	57	47	58	63	51	56	56	54
<i>Net Favorable</i>	<i>-14</i>	<i>-16</i>	<i>+1</i>	<i>-19</i>	<i>-28</i>	<i>-10</i>	<i>-17</i>	<i>-15</i>	<i>-11</i>
Very unfav	48	48	41	51	53	41	50	51	49

ABOUT THIS POLL

Global Strategy Group & Bellwether Research conducted a survey from November 9-14, 2017 with 2,001 registered voters total with 251 interviews in CA-49 and 250 interviews in each of FL-18, ME-02, NY-19, NY-21, PA-06, PA-07, and PA-08. The total results have a margin of error of +/-2.2% on the total sample and +/-6.2% in each district. Care has been taken to ensure that the survey is weighted to reflect the makeup of our desired universe.