

Voters Overwhelmingly Support EPA Air Pollution Rules

A new, nationwide poll shows that by a wide margin, voters across the political spectrum overwhelmingly support the EPA's new rules that will limit harmful and damaging air pollution from coal-fired power plants and strongly disagree with Congress' attempts to delay or prevent EPA from moving forward.

The poll, conducted by Hart Research Associates and GS Strategy Group, from August 31 through September 7, 2011, gauged voters' feelings about two EPA rules impacting electric power plants, the Cross State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) and the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards Rule (aka Utility MACT Rule). These are the same two rules that Ceres evaluated earlier this year with respect to the economic and job-creation benefits the rules would bring across the United States.

Poll results from 1,400 voters surveyed show overwhelming support for the EPA's new clean air rules. Voters support the Cross State Air Pollution Rule by more than four to one. More than three in four voters support the Toxics Rule.

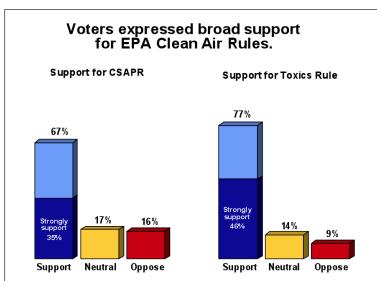
60% of voters support EPA putting stricter limits on air pollution from electric power plants. Support is even stronger among younger voters; 77% of young adults age 18- are in favor.

The CSAPR, which would require significant reductions in the emissions from electric power plants that result in air pollution hundreds of miles downwind and across state lines, is supported by 67% of voters.

77% of voters support the proposed Toxics Rule, which would require electric power plants to significantly curb emissions of mercury, lead, arsenic, and acid gases.

Voters believe EPA – not Congress – should determine whether stricter limits are needed on air pollution from power plants.

By a margin of three to one (75%) voters believe that EPA, not Congress, should determine whether stricter limits are needed on air pollution from electric power plants.



This is a view supported across the political spectrum, with 85% of Democrats, 62% of Republicans, and 79% of Independents in agreement that EPA – not Congress - should determine the rules around air pollution from electric power plants.

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By wide margins, voters oppose Congress delaying or stopping EPA's air pollution rules.

67% of voters think Congress should NOT delay new limits on air pollution from power plants.

76% of voters oppose Congress stopping the EPA from enacting these rules.

Voters believe the health and environmental benefits of the rules outweigh the costs.

65% of voters surveyed are confident the benefits of air pollution standards outweigh the cost of complying with them.

Voters see threats to water and health as the most important reasons for enacting new EPA air pollution rules.

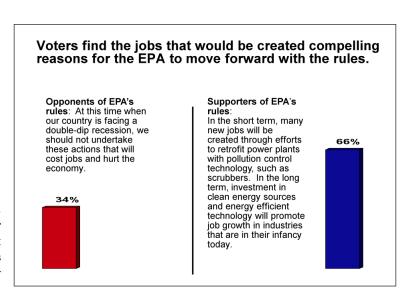
80% of voters believe it is important to enact new rules because coal-burning power plants cause significant water pollution via airborne emissions.

79% of voters agree that the rules are important to enact for health reasons.

Voters recognize the economic and job benefits of these rules.

75% of voters believe a good reason to implement these rules is the boost to local economies and the thousands of new jobs that will be created from investments in new technology.

Voter sentiment that new clean air rules will boost local economies is consistent with findings from a Ceres' February 2011 Report: New Jobs – Cleaner Air: Employment Effects Under Planned Changes to the EPA's Air Pollution Rules. The report, done by the U-MASS PERI, found that new air pollution rules will contribute to significant investment in the nation's generation fleet and long-term job benefits across much of the United States. Among the report's key findings:



Based on recent estimates that the power sector will invest almost \$200 billion total in capital improvements over the next five years, total employment created by these capital investments is estimated at 1.46 million jobs, or about 290,000 jobs on average in each of the next five years.

Installing modern pollution controls and building new power plants creates a wide array of skilled, high-paying installation, construction and professional jobs, as well as jobs at companies that manufacture pollution controls and other required construction/maintenance equipment.

Ceres leads a coalition of investors, environmental groups and other public interest organizations working with companies to address sustainability challenges such as global climate change.