

To: **American Solutions for Winning the Future**

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Date: June 3, 2008

Re: Energy Security, Coal, and Climate Change:  
*Results and Analysis from Nationwide Omnibus Telephone Survey*

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## Introduction & Methodology

the polling company™, inc. is pleased to present to **American Solutions for Winning the Future** the results of a recent nationwide telephone survey of 1,000 adults (aged 18+).

The survey was fielded May 29-June 1, 2008 at a Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) phone facility using live callers. The sample was drawn utilizing a Random Digit Dial (RDD), where phone numbers were generated by a computer to ensure that every household in the nation with a landline telephone had an equal chance to be surveyed. Sampling controls were used to ensure that a proportional and representative number of adults were interviewed from such demographic groups as age, gender, race and ethnicity, and geographic region according to the latest figures available from the United States Census.

A total of seven close-ended questions specific to climate change and energy policy were added to the national omnibus survey. The final questionnaire was approved by authorized representatives of American Solutions prior to fielding.

The margin of error is calculated at +/- 3.1% at the 95% confidence level, meaning that in 19 out of 20 cases, the results obtained would differ by no more than three point one percentage points in either direction if the entire adult population nationwide were to be surveyed. Margins of error for subgroups are higher.

## Analysis of Findings

### Climate Change a Serious Concern for Americans, But No Match for the Greater Priority of Energy Security.

Sixty-five percent of American adults surveyed indicated they were “very” or “somewhat” concerned about “*climate change or global warming – that is, the idea that the earth’s temperature is slowly rising and the related side effect, such as more intense weather and rising oceans.*” This was nearly twice the 34% who were “just a little bit” or “not at all” worried.

- ✧ There was a clear partisan split with respect to worry about climate change: 45% of Republicans were very or somewhat concerned compared to 70% of Independents and 78% of Democrats. Differences were also evident across the ideological spectrum: 54% of conservatives, 66% of moderates, and 84% of liberals noted high or moderate concern.
- ✧ A sizable 20-point gender gap emerged on the issue. Women were notably more anxious about rising global temperatures than men (75% of women very/somewhat concerned vs. 55% of men).
- ✧ Adults aged 25-34 stood out as a bit more concerned about global warming than their peers and Blacks and Hispanics were slightly more attune to it than Whites. There were not notable differences by geographic region.

Despite a clear worry about the dangers or climate change/global warming, in a separate question these respondents were adamant that energy security is a more immediate concern. **By a margin of more than two-to-one, Americans prioritized energy security over climate change as the more pressing issue** (see nearby text box).

Agreement with this notion was broad, as no less than 48% of every demographic group surveyed elevated affordable energy over global warming as the greater priority.

- ✧ Notably, while majorities of Republicans (76%) and Democrats (57%) prioritized energy security, just 48% of Independents agreed. Still, even among Independents, energy security bested climate change by 13 points.

*Which of the following do you think is the MORE PRESSING issue for America? [ROTATED]*

**63%** **ENERGY SECURITY** – THAT IS, ENSURING THAT AMERICA ALWAYS HAS ENOUGH AFFORDABLE ENERGY TO FULFILL ITS NEEDS AND IS NOT TOO DEPENDENT ON ANY ONE ENERGY SOURCE

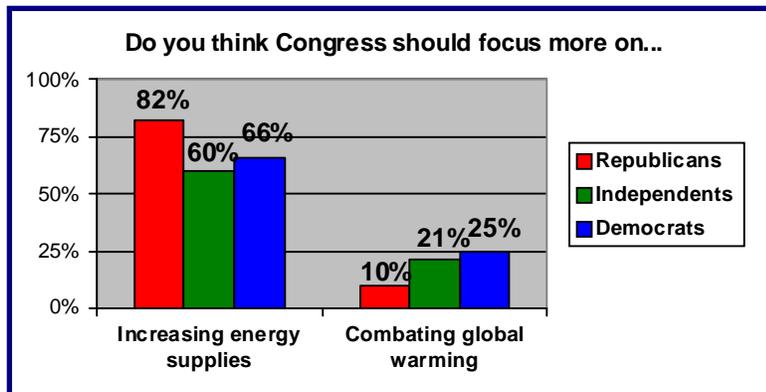
**27%** **CLIMATE CHANGE OR GLOBAL WARMING** – THAT IS, THE IDEA THAT THE EARTH’S TEMPERATURE IS SLOWLY RISING AND THE RELATED SIDE EFFECTS, SUCH AS MORE INTENSE WEATHER AND RISING OCEANS

- ✧ Even self-identified liberals assigned primacy to energy security (49%, compared to 40% for global warming). The calculus was more dramatic among conservatives, and moderates, 73% and 64% respectively of whom felt energy security was more pressing.
- ✧ African-Americans were the only other demographic group of which a majority did not select energy security (48%).
- ✧ Men and 35-44 year olds stood out from respondents overall as particularly focused on energy security.

### Americans to Congress: “Lower Our Energy Bills!”

When gas and electricity prices were introduced into the battle between energy security and global warming, respondents became even more adamant that meeting the energy needs of Americans was most critical. They sent an unmistakable message to Congress: 71% directed their elected leaders in Washington to focus on “increasing the energy supplies of the United States and lowering the cost of gasoline and electricity,” while just 18% wanted Congress to focus on “combating global warming, also known as climate change, even if it means higher gasoline and electricity prices.”

- ✧ Majorities of every demographic group surveyed agreed that lower energy prices should take precedence in Congress, including majorities of all three political party affiliates (*see following graph*) and all three ideologies.

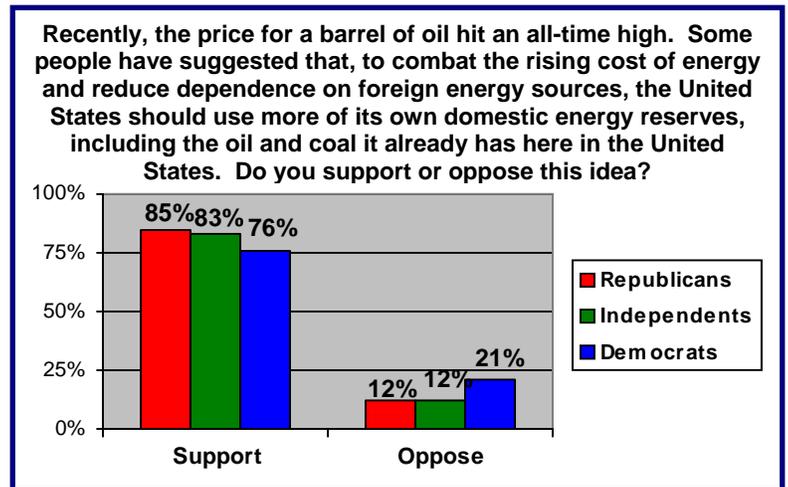


- ✧ Groups particularly likely to wish Congress would focus on increasing energy supplies and lowering prices included 18-24 year olds, Northeast and North Central residents, low-income households, and Hispanics.

## Greater Use of Domestic Energy Resources Embraced.

The mandate moving forward is clear. By an eye-popping margin of more than four-to-one, Americans surveyed supported the U.S. tapping into its “own domestic energy reserves, including the oil and coal it already has here in the United States” in order to “combat the rising cost of energy and reduce dependence on foreign energy sources” (81%-16%).

- ✧ Those aged 25-34 stood out as particularly apt to support a stepped-up employment of America’s domestic energy resources while 18-24 year olds were among the most likely to oppose it. There was little to no difference between respondents with respect to gender, race, or geographic region.
- ✧ There was resounding tri-partisan agreement as no less than 76% of members of all three major political parties backed greater use of America’s domestic energy reserves (*see nearby graph*).
- ✧ There was also strong consensus across the ideological spectrum as 86% of conservatives, 77% of moderates, and 74% of liberals backed intensified use of the U.S.’ domestic reserves. Majorities of every other major demographic group also concurred.



## Coal, Especially Clean Coal, Very Popular Option Among Americans Shouldering the Burden of Rising Energy Costs.

As the nearby textbox demonstrates, Americans backed increasing the use of coal as an energy source by a margin of nearly two-to-one (64%-35%). In fact, the percentage of respondents who “strongly” advocated upping our use of coal outnumbered the total percentage who took the opposite viewpoint.

- ✧ Majorities of every major demographic group surveyed except 18-24 year olds supported an increased role for coal in U.S. energy production. Seniors (65+) were particularly vocal in their backing.

- ✧ While political party and ideology did wield some influence on respondents’ feelings on the subject, **majorities of Republicans (70%), Independents (57%), and Democrats (61%) as well as conservatives (72%), moderates (63%), and liberals (53%) all agreed on increasing the use of coal for energy in the U.S..**

*I am now going to read you the opinions of two people – I will call them Smith and Jones. Please tell me which one you agree with more. [ROTATED]*

Smith believes the U.S. should increase its use of coal because it is a domestically available energy source and is less expensive than imported foreign oil. Also, new technologies have dramatically reduced emissions from burning coal and made it much less harmful to the environment.

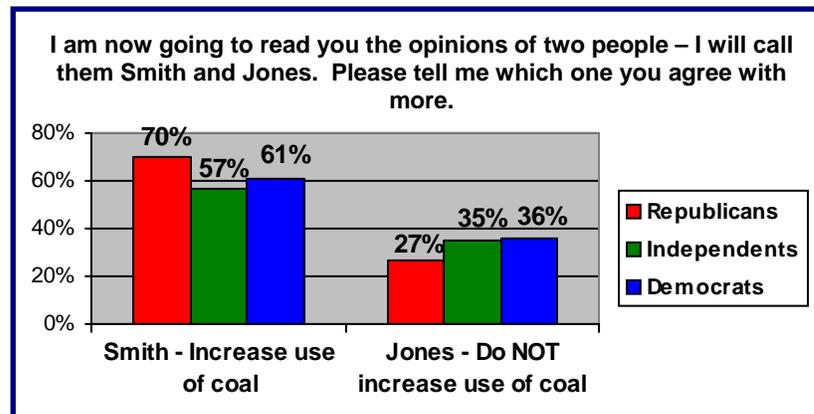
Jones believes the U.S. should NOT increase its use of coal even though it is a less expensive, domestically available energy source, because burning coal is still a big contributor to carbon emissions and air pollution.

**64% TOTAL AGREE WITH SMITH (NET)**

35% STRONGLY AGREE WITH SMITH  
29% SOMEWHAT AGREE WITH SMITH

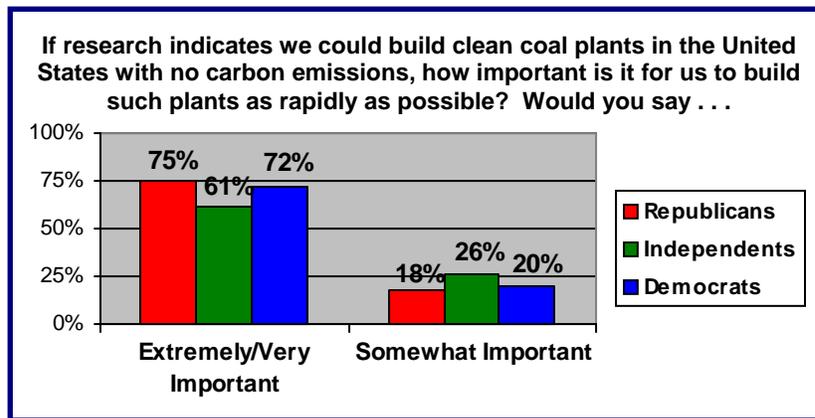
**33% TOTAL AGREE WITH JONES (NET)**

18% SOMEWHAT AGREE WITH JONES  
15% STRONGLY AGREE WITH JONES



In a separate, follow-up question, **71% of those surveyed declared it “extremely” or “very” important to build clean coal plants – with no carbon emissions – in the United States “as rapidly as possible.”** When combined with the additional 20% who noted this as a “somewhat” important issue, a stunning 91% of Americans felt building clean coal plants should be a noteworthy priority. Just 8% dismissed the idea entirely.

- ✧ **The critical nature of building emissions-free coal plants post-haste was shared by a majority of all demographic groups surveyed**, with men, Americans aged 55+, and Southerners particularly supportive of the idea.
- ✧ As the graph below illustrates, at least six-in-ten members of all three political parties agreed that clean coal plants were an important priority. Consensus was also strong across the ideological spectrum, as 74% of conservatives, 73% of moderates, and 67% of liberals agreed zero emissions coal plants should be built “as rapidly as possible.”

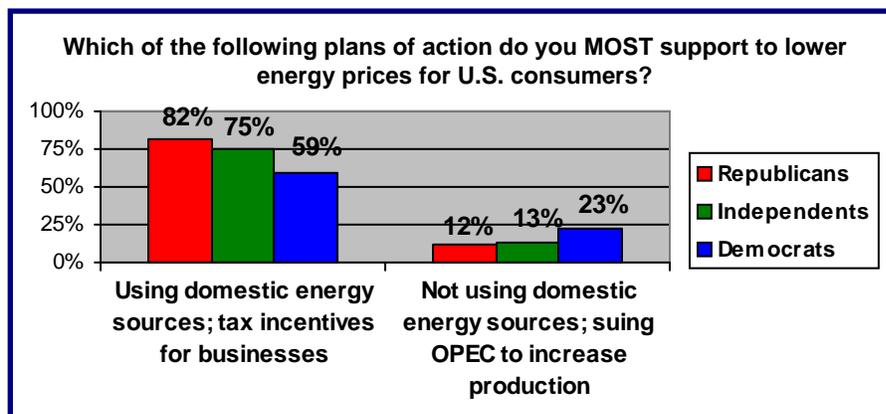


## Americans Favor Multi-Step, Common-Sense Energy Policy Over Suing OPEC to Lower Climbing Energy Prices.

By a margin of well over three-to-one, survey respondents supported lowering U.S. energy prices by relying more on domestic energy sources, including currently undrilled oil, and tax incentives for business innovators rather than pursuing legal action against OPEC (see following table).

Which of the following plans of action do you MOST support to lower energy prices for U.S. consumers? [ROTATE]	
69%	USING U.S. DOMESTIC ENERGY SOURCES, SUCH AS CLEAN COAL AND OIL, EVEN IF IT MEANS DRILLING OFF OUR COASTS AND IN ALASKA, AND OFFERING TAX CREDITS FOR AMERICAN BUSINESSES THAT DEVELOP NEW ENERGY SOLUTIONS
18%	NOT USING U.S. DOMESTIC ENERGY SOURCES, SUCH AS CLEAN COAL AND OIL OFF OUR COASTS AND IN ALASKA, AND INSTEAD USING LEGAL SYSTEMS AVAILABLE TO SUE OPEC, THE CARTEL OF FOREIGN OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES WHICH PROVIDE MOST OF THE WORLD'S OIL, TO INCREASE THE OIL SUPPLY

- ✧ Majorities of every demographic group surveyed agreed that this multi-faceted energy policy combining domestic resources and incentives for solution-minded businesses was superior to legal pressure on OPEC to increase oil production. Those aged 35-44 were especially enthusiastic about it.
- ✧ As the following chart illustrates, there was clear tri-partisan agreement about the preferred course of action, though Republicans felt more strongly about it than Democrats. In addition, majorities of conservatives (80%), moderates (68%), and liberals (55%) agreed that increased use of domestic energy and a sensible tax plan was the better option.



## In Conclusion...

“Global warming” – a hot topic in the news media and among the Hollywood set – is certainly a concern weighing on many Americans’ minds. However, when stacked up against energy security and affordable gas and electricity, there is no contest. The adults surveyed made clear that Congress should prioritize increasing the availability of affordable energy over battling climate change.

In pursuit of the immediate goal of energy security, clear majorities of Americans of every political and ideological stripe advocated the U.S. tap into its voluminous domestic energy resources, including the oil located off its coasts and in Alaska and the coal deep within its grounds. Clean coal was particularly popular and Americans urged the swift building of zero emissions coal plants.

Finally, while the media and the President focus on the oil production of OPEC and how the U.S. might influence or compel that output, Americans prefer a greater use of domestic energy sources and an innovation-encouraging tax policy that rewards businesses for new energy solutions. While there were some political and ideological differences, for the most part, Americans stood united in favor of a smart, practical energy policy that would allow them to drive to work and power their homes without breaking their bank accounts.