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TO: Interested parties

FROM: Joel Benenson, Amy Levin

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RE: Poll Results

Methodology

The Benenson Strategy Group conducted 821 interviews with registered voters in 16 battleground states (AK, AR, IN, ME, MI, MO, MT, NC, NV, ND, NH, OH, PA, SD, VA, WV) who are likely to vote in the 2010 U.S. Congressional elections.

All interviews were conducted between August 20-24, 2009, by telephone using a sample of registered voters.

The total data set has a margin of error of $\pm 3.4\%$ at the 95% confidence level, and it is larger among subgroups.

Key Findings

Current Landscape: Strong support for ACES

- Despite a multi-million dollar lobbying and advertising campaign by Big Oil and special interests, public support remains very strong for the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES).
- Voters show broad support for the American Clean Energy and Security Act, with 63% of voters supporting the bill and just 30% opposing it.
 - Independents support ACES by large margins (59% support / 30% oppose).
 - Democrats are united in support of the bill (85% support / 14% oppose) while Republicans are more mixed in their opposition (43% support / 49% oppose).
- Voters also indicate that their Senator's vote on the Act could be a meaningful re-election factor:
 - 60% would be more likely to re-elect their Senator if he or she voted *in favor* of the bill (just 26% would be less likely to re-elect).
 - 52% would be less likely to re-elect their Senator if he or she voted *against* the bill (just 31% would be more likely).

- As we enter this debate, support for the components of ACES is incredibly high. When asked about their priorities for “any bill in Congress that address energy”, the top two were:
 - Protecting our children’s drinking water and the air they breathe (84%, 6+7 on 7-point scale)
 - Making America more energy independent (79%, 6+7 on 7-point scale)
- The majority of voters already believe ACES will:
 - Create jobs, not hurt them: 50% say the number of jobs will increase, 26% say it will decrease and 26% say it won’t change.
 - Increase America’s standing as a world leader in renewable energy: 53% say ACES will increase it, 28% say it won’t change and just 10% say it will decrease.

Voter Mindset: Time to stand up to those who stand in the way of energy reform

- Voters know that Big Oil and special interests have blocked energy reform for decades to protect their profits and that we’re sending billions of dollars to hostile foreign regimes, which hurts our economy, helps our enemies, and puts our security at risk.
- When asked about issues that concern them:
 - Two-thirds of voters are very concerned (6+7 on 7-point scale) that “Big Oil and gas will continue to make record profits while family budgets suffer.”
 - 63% are very concerned about “our national security being at the mercy of hostile foreign nations who control our oil supply.”
 - 61% are very concerned about “our economic security being at the mercy of hostile foreign nations who control our oil supply.”
- When asked, “Who do you blame most for America's continued dependence on foreign oil?”:
 - 20% blame big oil companies who are only interested in their profits and another 15% blame special interests and lobbyists who block progress (35% total).
 - Another 24% blame politicians in Washington who refuse to make tough choices.
 - By comparison, just 12% blame environmentalists, 7% blame consumers and 6% blame corporations.

The Coming Debate: Powerful pro-ACES messaging beats back opponents' attacks

- Pro-ACES arguments overwhelmingly beat back the opposition's attack by double-digit margins. We tested different messages (in a split sample – so respondents heard only the attack and one response) against the following:

Opposition text: Some people say this bill is nothing more than a "job killing energy tax" that represents the biggest tax increase in American history – and that it will destroy jobs and raise middle class families' energy bills by at least a thousand dollars. They say even Obama admits that families' energy bills would "skyrocket." The last thing our economy needs right now is another big Washington program reaching into taxpayers' pockets and killing jobs across the country.

- Just 36% agree with the opposition, while 50% agree that Big Oil, corporate polluters and special interests have fought energy reform for decades and ACES will protect America by creating jobs and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

Supporter text A: Other people say we can't let opponents of this bill – oil companies, special interests and politicians – who've been fighting against energy reform for decades get away with their lies and scare tactics this time. They've made America less secure, and more dependent on foreign oil. And they've protected corporations that pollute the air our children breathe and the water they drink. This bill protects the American people – by creating 1.7 million new jobs and reducing our dependence on foreign oil. Its opponents are only trying to protect themselves.

- Similarly, among other respondents, only 36% agreed with the opposition text while 51% believe our over-reliance on hostile nations hurts our economy and helps our enemies and that ACES will help correct that:

Supporter text B: Other people say that America spends a billion dollars a day on foreign oil. Our over-reliance on oil from hostile nations hurts our economy, helps our enemies, and puts our national security at risk. We need renewable energy sources – that are made in America and work for America. We should never have let ourselves grow so dependent on countries that hate us, and this bill is a first step in correcting that.