



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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SUPPORT FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND OFFSHORE DRILLING

The public continues to favor a wide range of government policies to address the nation's energy supply. More than three-quarters of the public (78%) favors increasing federal funding for research on wind, solar and hydrogen technology. A large majority (70%) also favors spending more on subway, rail and bus systems. Both measures are little changed from recent years.

At the same time, the public continues to broadly support expanded

offshore oil drilling: 63% say they favor allowing more offshore oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters while 31% are opposed. These opinions also have changed little since 2008.

And by a 52% to 41% margin, Americans favor the government promoting the increased use of nuclear power. In April 2009, the public was more divided about nuclear power (45% favor, 48% oppose), but views are similar to September 2008 (50% favor, 43% oppose). In his State of the Union address last month, President Obama pledged to build new nuclear power plants and raised the possibility of opening up offshore areas for oil and gas development.

Broad Support for Multiple Energy Policies

	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
More funding for alternative energy	78	17	5=100
Spending more on mass transit	70	25	4=100
Allowing drilling in U.S. waters	63	31	6=100
Promoting nuclear power use	52	41	7=100

Q73F2a-d. N=705. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The latest national survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Feb. 3-9 among 1,383 adults reached on cell phones and landlines, finds that public awareness about a policy to set limits on carbon emissions – known as “cap and trade” – is still quite low. Nearly half of Americans (46%) have heard nothing at all about the legislation being considered by the president and Congress that would set limits on carbon dioxide, down slightly from last October (55%).

Opinions about the policy also are quite stable. A majority (52%) of Americans favor setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions and making companies pay for their emissions, even if it may mean higher energy prices; about a third (35%) oppose the proposal. As was the case in October, those who have heard a lot about the legislation are more likely to oppose it (54%) than those who have heard a little (27%) or nothing at all (36%).

Little Change on Cap and Trade		
	Oct	Feb
<i>Heard about cap and trade legislation ...</i>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
	%	%
A lot	14	17
A little	30	37
Nothing at all	55	46
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100
<i>Setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions ...</i>		
Favor	50	52
Oppose	39	35
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100
N	1500	678
Q71F1 & Q72F1. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.		

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 1,383 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from February 3-9, 2010 (1,024 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 359 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 132 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2009 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Form 1	678	4.5 percentage points
Form 2	705	4.5 percentage points

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
FEBRUARY 2010 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
February 3-9, 2010
N=1,383

QUESTIONS 1-2, 4-5, 8-14, 17-20, 25a-h, 25l, 27-42, 48-49, 64-66 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 3, 6-7, 15-16, 21-24, 26, 43-47, 50-63, 67-70

QUESTIONS 25i-k HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=678]:

Q.71F1 How much, if anything, have you heard about a policy being considered by the president and Congress called "Cap-and-Trade" that would set limits on carbon dioxide emissions? Have you heard...**[READ]**

Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>		Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>
17	A lot	14
37	A little [OR]	30
46	Nothing at all	55
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=678]:

IF HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE (Q.71F1=1,2) [N=405]: From what you've read and heard

IF HEARD NOTHING/DK (Q.71F1=3,9) [N=273]: Just in general,

Q.72F1 Do you favor or oppose setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions and making companies pay for their emissions, even if it may mean higher energy prices?

Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>		Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>
52	Favor	50
35	Oppose	39
13	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=705]:

Q.73F2 As I read some possible government policies to address America's energy supply, tell me whether you would favor or oppose each. First, would you favor or oppose the government **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]**? How about the government... **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**

		<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F2	Promoting the increased use of nuclear power			
	Feb 3-9, 2010	52	41	7
	Apr 14-21, 2009	45	48	7
	September, 2008	50	43	7
	Late-February, 2008	44	48	8
	February, 2006	44	49	7
	Mid-September, 2005	39	53	8

Q.73F2 CONTINUED ...

b.F2	Spending more on subway, rail and bus systems			
	Feb 3-9, 2010	70	25	4
	Apr 14-21, 2009	70	25	5
	February, 2008	72	23	5
	February, 2006	68	26	6
	Mid-September, 2005	68	27	5
c.F2	Increasing federal funding for research on wind, solar and hydrogen technology			
	Feb 3-9, 2010	78	17	5
	Apr 14-21, 2009	82	15	3
	September, 2008	82	14	4
	Late-February, 2008	81	14	5
	February, 2006	82	14	4
d.F2	Allowing more offshore oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters			
	Feb 3-9, 2010	63	31	6
	Apr 14-21, 2009	68	27	5
	September, 2008	67	28	5

NO QUESTION 74

QUESTIONS 75-78 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED