



BENENSON STRATEGY GROUP

14 EAST 60TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10022
TEL 212 702 8777 FAX 212 750 6518

TO: Interested parties

FROM: Joel Benenson, Amy Levin

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RE: Global warming poll results summary

- As the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen concludes, new poll results show Americans' belief in global warming and their desire for action remains very strong.
- Two-thirds of U.S. registered voters (67%) believe global warming is happening, and just 31% do not think global warming is happening. While there are partisan differences, Democrats and Independents acknowledge global warming by overwhelming margins but Republicans are significantly less united in their skepticism.
 - ✓ Among Democrats: 91% believe global warming is happening, 8% don't
 - ✓ Among Independents: 64% believe, 32% don't
 - ✓ Among Republicans: 43% believe, 54% don't
- Voters also demonstrate a strong desire to limit carbon pollution and move towards clean energy.
 - ✓ 82% of voters (and 80% of Independents) support the U.S. government "increasing investment in clean energy sources."
 - ✓ 67% of voters (and 67% of Independents) support the U.S. government "limiting carbon pollution and other gases that may cause global warming."
 - ✓ 66% of voters (and 63% of Independents) support "signing an international treaty to commit to addressing global warming - as long as countries like China and India do as well."
- Moreover, a majority believes the United States should take the lead on global warming, regardless of what other countries do. When asked to choose from the following options:
 - ✓ 56% of voters say "the United States should take the lead and make meaningful reductions in its carbon emissions and other gases that may cause global warming, regardless of what other countries do."
 - ✓ Another 17% say "the United States should make meaningful reductions only if other countries do as well."
 - ✓ 23% say "the United States does not need to make significant reductions of carbon dioxide or other gases, regardless of what other countries do."
 - ✓ 3% were undecided.

- The recent controversy surrounding stolen emails seems to have had little impact on voters' view of global warming and their desire to limit carbon pollution.
 - ✓ Among those who said they had read or seen something about the stolen emails, 53% said it did not affect their view at all. The remainder was largely split -- 26% said it made them less likely to support the U.S. taking action to reduce global warming while 20% said it made them more likely to support action.
 - ✓ Even a harshly framed attack about the emails failed to influence voters in any significant way. After hearing the following (with language culled from some of the more vocal commentators on the subject), 63% still say they believe global warming is happening.

"It's a disgrace. These emails prove so-called climate change experts deliberately destroyed scientific data to hide findings that don't support their political agenda. They manipulated data and shared statistical tricks to hide cooler temperatures. They called their critics quote 'idiots' and tried to silence opposition by preventing anyone who disagreed with them from publishing in peer-reviewed journals. Now, Congress is about to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on the so-called global warming issue - with a plan that would kill jobs, cause energy bills to skyrocket and cost every family thousands. And it's all based on fraudulent, agenda-driven science."

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The Benenson Strategy Group conducted 1,000 interviews with registered voters nationwide. All interviews were conducted from December 12-15, 2009, by telephone using a random digit dial. The total data set has a margin of error of $\pm 3.1\%$ at the 95% confidence level, and it is larger among subgroups.