



TO: Interested parties  
 FROM: Joel Benenson  
 DATE: June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
 RE: Latest poll results summary

- The oil spill is intensifying the public’s desire for clean energy investments and increased regulation on corporate polluters.

	May	June
<b>REGULATING CORPORATE POLLUTERS:</b> <i>When it comes to regulating corporate polluters, would you say that the federal government should be regulating them much more than it currently does, somewhat more than it currently does, about what it currently does, somewhat less than it currently does, or much less than it currently does?</i>		
% saying much more	38	45
% saying much more + somewhat more	65	68
<b>INVESTING IN CLEAN ENERGY SOURCES:</b> <i>When it comes to investing in clean energy sources, would you say that the federal government should invest much more than it currently invests, somewhat more than it currently invests, about what it currently invests, somewhat less than it currently invests, or much less than it currently invests?</i>		
% saying much more	32	39
% saying much more + somewhat more	57	65

- In the aftermath of the spill, people firmly believe Congress needs to do more than just make BP pay. They understand America needs more than a band-aid; we need real, comprehensive energy reform. When asked which they agree with more:
  - ✓ Just 23% agree with: We need to ensure that British Petroleum pays every last dime of the damages they’ve caused, but Senators would be wrong to try to use this tragedy to pass some huge new Washington program and job-killing energy tax.
  - ✓ 66% agree with: British Petroleum must pay for the damage they’ve done. But our addiction to oil threatens our security and we need more than a band-aid for that. Senators need to pass real reforms to hold polluters accountable and invest in clean American energy.
- Consequently, there is a huge margin of support for an energy bill that would “limit pollution, invest in domestic energy sources and encourage companies to use and develop clean energy. It would do this in part by charging energy companies for carbon pollution in electricity or fuels like gas.”
  - ✓ Overall, 63% of likely 2010 voters support it and just 29% are opposed.
  - ✓ Among Democrats: 81% support, 14% oppose.
  - ✓ Among Independents: 63% support, 27% oppose.

- ✓ Among Republicans: 45% support, 47% oppose.
- The energy bill could also be a powerful election issue, with support high among key electoral groups:
  - ✓ Among voters somewhat likely to vote for a Democrat in the 2010 elections: 71% support the bill and just 20% oppose.
  - ✓ Among voters somewhat likely to vote for a Republican in the 2010 elections: 60% support the bill and just 35% oppose.
  - ✓ Among undecided voters: 62% support the bill and just 21% oppose.
- Even in the face of harsh opposition messaging, support for the energy bill stays strong. After hearing the following two messages (rotated), 64% of likely 2010 voters support the bill and just 25% oppose it.

*Opposition text:* This “Cap and Tax” bill is nothing more than a job-killing energy tax. It puts a huge new tax on gasoline, driving up the price you pay right at the pump, which is the last thing our economy needs right now. This bill will cost middle class families, who are already struggling to get by, \$2,000 a year. First the bailouts, then health care...now Congress wants another \$660 billion of taxpayers’ hard-earned money for a wasteful Washington program that will kill jobs across the country.

*Supporter text:* Oil companies and lobbyists have fought energy reform for decades to protect their profits. But America can’t afford another \$20 billion oil spill catastrophe. And we can’t afford to keep sending a billion dollars a day overseas for foreign oil. It hurts our economy, helps our enemies and puts our security at risk. Congress needs to stand up to the oil companies and special interests funding their campaigns. They need to pass real reform that puts America back in control of its energy situation – with clean energy sources that are made in America and work for America.

###

*The Benenson Strategy Group conducted two nationwide polls by telephone using samples of registered voters. All data cited is from the June poll unless otherwise specified:*

- *June Poll, 800 interviews with likely 2010 voters nationwide. Interviews were conducted from May 25-June 1, 2010. The margin of error for the entire data set is  $\pm 3.46\%$  at the 95% confidence level. It is higher among subgroups.*
- *May Poll, 650 interviews with likely 2010 voters nationwide. Interviews were conducted from May 4-5, 2010. The margin of error for the entire data set is  $\pm 3.84\%$  at the 95% confidence level. It is higher among subgroups.*