

From: Tom Jensen, Director of Public Policy Polling

To: Interested Parties

Subject: Support for Energy Bill from South Carolina Small Business Owners

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Small business owners in South Carolina strongly believe the country needs to move toward clean energy and that new energy policies will transform the economy and help them create new jobs. They support comprehensive clean energy and climate legislation currently being discussed in the US Senate. Support for a climate and energy bill from Senators Lindsey Graham and Jim DeMint would be a winner with small business owners back home. A Public Policy Polling survey of 711 small business owners across a three-state region including North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia, including 105 specifically in South Carolina, between July 7th and 9th, found that:

- 57% of small business owners support the bill being debated in Washington right now, compared to only 37% who are opposed. That includes support from a majority of Democrats (83/17) and independents (54/41), as well as 43% of Republicans. 58% of Chamber of Commerce and National Federation of Independent Business members express their support for the legislation as well.
- 68% of small business owners think that moving the country to clean energy is a smart way to restart the economy and help small businesses create jobs. That sentiment is shared by 83% of Democratic business owners and 58% of Republican ones. Owners of businesses with fewer than 10 employees are particularly optimistic that a shift in energy sources will help spur job creation.
- 59% of small business owners agree that adopting new energy policies will transform the economy and want their businesses to be part of the revitalization, compared with 39% who don't.
- 68% of business owners think America should focus on maximizing the value of the energy we use and invest in clean energy, while just 21% think the country should keep subsidizing oil companies.
- Small business owner support for the bill will increase even further if it includes several tools to help them take advantage of new developments in clean energy. This includes interest-free loans to help them make energy efficiency upgrades, free energy audits to help them learn how to reduce usage and save money, and consultation on how they can profit from the emerging clean energy industry.

PPP interviewed 105 small business owners in South Carolina from July 7th to 9th.