

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Hart Research Associates
DATE: January 11, 2018
RE: Public Opinion on Infrastructure

On behalf of the Center for American Progress and Defenders of Wildlife, Hart Research conducted an online survey of 1,000 registered voters nationwide. These interviews were conducted from October 31 to November 4, 2017. The sample is representative of the 2016 electorate demographically and politically, including of the 2016 presidential vote.

Our research found that voters oppose the central proposition of the Trump-Republican proposal to weaken environmental protections in order to speed up and build more infrastructure. While they rate both improving America's infrastructure (87%) and protecting America's environment (85%) as very high priorities, voters definitively disagree with the idea that it is necessary to sacrifice environmental protections in order to improve infrastructure.

Nearly all American voters (94%), including Trump voters (92%), believe that we can build and modernize America's infrastructure while also maintaining environmental protections. Majorities across party lines are certain that achieving both of these goals is possible. While the Trump-Republican proposal is expected to include substantial rollbacks of environmental protections, the majority of Americans (64%) oppose weakening protections for air, water, wildlife, and natural places in order to build and speed up more infrastructure projects.

Below we discuss key findings from the research in more detail:

1) American voters are predisposed to oppose any proposal that sacrifices our land, water and wildlife. They do not believe we have to undermine environmental protection to build and speed up infrastructure projects.

Improving America's infrastructure and protecting the environment are both very high priorities for voters, and they reject the idea that we must sacrifice environmental protections to speed up the building of roads and bridges. Voters across parties agree that we can both protect our air, water, wildlife and natural places, and modernize our nation's infrastructure.

Voters definitively reject the idea that it's necessary to sacrifice environmental protections in order to improve infrastructure.

Which comes closer to your view?

We can build and modernize America's infrastructure while also maintaining environmental protections for air, water, wildlife, and natural places.



It's necessary to reduce protections for air, water, wildlife, and natural places in order to build and modernize America's infrastructure.



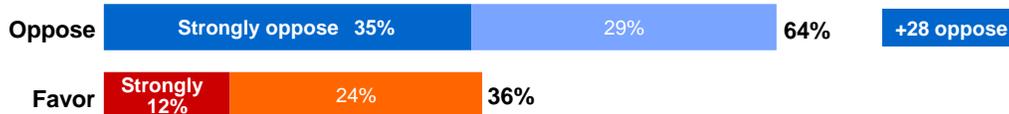
	DEFINITELY CAN DO	Total can do both
Democrats	71%	95%
Independents	69%	95%
Republicans	58%	91%
Swing voters	62%	94%
Trump voters	60%	92%
Clinton voters	71%	95%
Urban	64%	94%
Suburban	68%	95%
Small town/rural	64%	92%

Voters' initial instincts are to oppose (64% against) an infrastructure proposal that would weaken environmental protections for air, water, wildlife, and natural places in order to build and modernize more infrastructure projects and do so more quickly. A solid majority of voters continue to react negatively to the proposal when it is attributed to President Trump and Republicans in Congress (59% unfavorable, only 34% favorable).

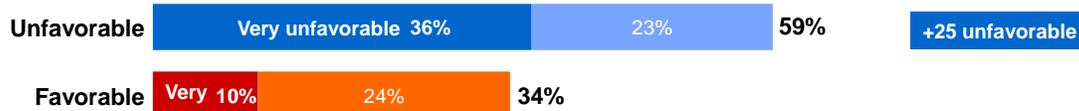
Voters' initial response is negative to a proposal to weaken environmental protections to build infrastructure when presented in the abstract and as a Trump/GOP proposal.

Reaction to Descriptions of Trump/GOP Proposal

Weakening environmental protections for air, water, wildlife, and natural places in order to build and modernize more infrastructure projects and do so more quickly.



Donald Trump/Republicans in Congress proposed bill that would fund some infrastructure development and weaken environmental protections for infrastructure projects.



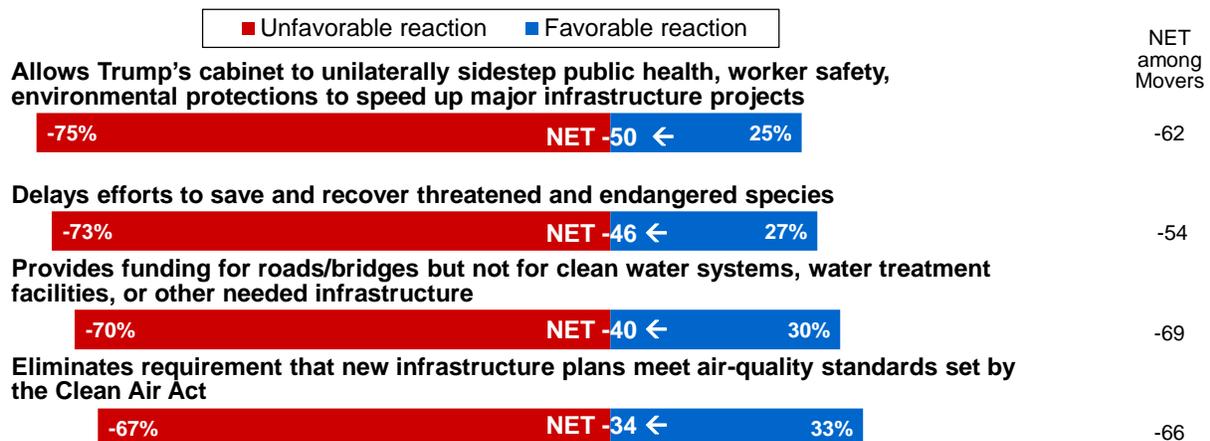
Opposition is strong among Democrats and independents; Republicans return to party lines when Trump's name is attached.

	Weaken enviro protections to build infrastructure projects		Trump/GOP bill to fund infrastructure/weaken enviro protections for infrastructure	
	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Favor</u>
	%	%	%	%
Democrats	76	24	81	13
Independents	67	33	60	33
Republicans	49	51	33	59
Swing voters	67	33	61	32
Clinton Voters	77	23	81	12
Trump voters	50	50	34	58

2) There are several specific aspects of an expected Trump-Republican proposal that conflict with voters' core values for the environment and infrastructure.

Four points from the expected Trump-Republican infrastructure proposal elicit strongly negative reactions among voters overall and especially among persuadable voters (those who became unfavorable toward the proposal as they learned more about it).

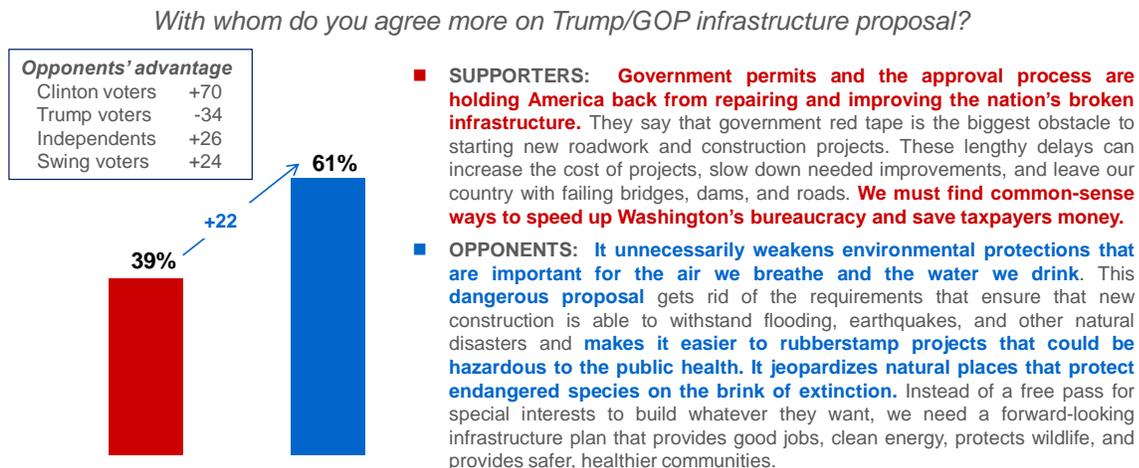
Reaction to Information about Trump/GOP Proposal



* Of 13 proof points tested

3) Voters also respond negatively to the adverse health and wildlife impacts associated with removing protections for clean air and water. Instead, voters overwhelmingly support the need to protect the planet for future generations.

The majority of Americans oppose the Trump-Republican plan when told about the negative environmental impacts.



Out of 11 messages tested, these two stood out as the strongest reasons to oppose the proposal among voters overall, swing voters, persuadable voters, and Trump voters who oppose the proposal.

We have a responsibility to our children and grandchildren to address climate change by investing in sustainable infrastructure and moving away from projects that pollute our air and water. The longer we put it off, the more expensive and painful it will be for our economy and our families to solve this problem.

Air pollution can lead to pregnancy complications, cancer, asthma, heart problems, and even premature death. Yet this policy removes important protections for clean air that protect the health of Americans, especially the most vulnerable among us, such as young children and the elderly.

Messaging about the impact on wildlife is especially resonant with moderate voters, independents, Millennials, and voters living in the West.

This proposal will jeopardize the natural places that America's wildlife calls home. Many threatened and endangered species such as grizzly bears, wolves, and jaguars will be put at further risk of extinction if important conservation laws are sacrificed for the benefit of rapid, unfettered development.