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## **News Release** ***For Immediate Release***

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### **Poll Shows Overwhelming Support among North Carolina Voters for Expansion of Alternative Energy - Most Oppose Paying for New Nuclear Plants**

RALEIGH, N.C. (July 23, 2007) A poll of North Carolinians likely to vote in upcoming elections shows overwhelming support for the expansion of the use of alternative energy and opposition to paying for the construction of new nuclear plants. Commissioned by the Conservation Council of North Carolina, the telephone survey was conducted by Public Policy Polling on July 18<sup>th</sup> and asked a series of questions about how government and the utility companies should address future energy needs.

A large majority of North Carolinians, 62%, believe that global warming is a serious threat and that government should take immediate steps to address it. When asked if the North Carolina government should act now to reduce the amount of pollutants that may contribute to climate change, 76% of likely voters supported intervention. The poll showed overwhelming support for the expansion of alternative fuel sources, with 89% of respondents supporting more use of solar energy and 88% supporting the expansion of wind energy. 63% opposed the expanded use of coal for energy in the future and 61% supported more nuclear energy use.

However on the question of nuclear energy, the results were less positive as respondents were given additional choices about that technology. When asked if they would be willing to pay higher utility rates to support the construction of new nuclear plants, the majority of respondents answered no, they would not support new construction. The majority, 72%, also believed that consumers should not start paying for the construction of new power plants before they become operational – a funding scheme known as Construction Work In Progress (CWIP).

The majority of those polled, 77% support higher utility rates if the revenue generated supported the use of renewable energy sources versus nuclear power plants. And 79% of respondents believe that power companies should be required to invest more in energy efficient practices.

The results of the poll are important as North Carolina legislators debate an energy bill that has drawn criticism from environmental and consumer groups.

The legislation under consideration, Senate Bill 3, would require utility companies to provide 12.5% of their power in the future from alternative sources. However the bill shifted from an alternative energy bill, known as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (REPS) to a broader energy bill that would give utilities the ability to charge

customers higher utility rates to pay for ongoing construction of new nuclear and coal plants. It also offers millions of dollars in tax breaks to industrial customers. Critics also point to a provision in the bill that would allow hog farmers to sell methane gas emitted from hog waste stored in lagoons – a disposal approach that has been responsible for the contamination of fresh water and ground water in Eastern North Carolina.

“The poll shows what we’ve long suspected” said Nina Szlosberg President of the Conservation Council of NC. “Most people want us to do something about global warming now and they want us to do it through clean, renewable technologies.”

“We hope this poll helps lawmakers understand that they are heading in the wrong direction in the energy debate. If they listen to the people they represent, they will go back to the drawing board and produce an energy bill that promotes alternative energy without giving away “the farm” to the utilities.”

The Conservation Council of North Carolina is one of a number of conservation and environmental advocacy groups opposing the proposed energy bill in its present form, while strongly supporting the provisions to expand the use of renewable energy in the future.

The Conservation Council of North Carolina is a statewide non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to preserving our state’s natural resources and protecting public health. The Conservation Council supports a full time lobbyist at the state legislature to help shape and pass environmentally strong legislation, and works to hold our legislators accountable for their decisions on the environment.

*For information about poll methodology contact Justin Guillory, Public Policy Polling 888 621 6988 or [justing@publicpolicypolling.com](mailto:justing@publicpolicypolling.com)*

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## NC Survey Results

**Q1** Some say that global warming presents a serious threat and that government should take immediate steps to address it, while others say global warming is an unproven theory. Do you think that global warming is a serious threat and government should do something about it or is global warming an unproven theory? If you think global warming is a serious threat, press 1 on your keypad now. If you think it's an unproven theory, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.

*Serious Threat* .....62% *Not Sure*..... 5%  
*Unproven Theory*...33%

**Q2** North Carolina's coast may be at risk because of rising sea levels caused by global warming. Should North Carolina take steps now to reduce pollutants produced in our state that may contribute to climate change, or should it be left to the federal government? If you believe the North Carolina state government should take steps to reduce pollutants, press 1. If you think the issue should be left to the federal government, press 2. Or if you believe the government does not need to address global warming, press 3.

*NC gov*.....76% *Not a gov issue*..... 9%  
*Federal gov*.....15%

**Q3** I am going to list different energy sources that could be used to meet our growing energy needs. Press 1, if you support expanding the use of this energy source. Press 2, if you oppose expanding its use.

Solar Power. If you support expansion of solar power, press 1. If not, press 2.

*Support*.....89% *Oppose*.....11%

**Q4** Wind energy. If support, press 1. If oppose, press 2.

*Support* .....88% *Oppose* .....12%

**Q5** Coal. If support, press 1. If oppose, press 2.

*Support* ..... 37% *Oppose* ..... 63%

**Q6** Nuclear Power. If support, press 1. If oppose, press 2.

*Support* ..... 61% *Oppose* ..... 39%

**Q7** To cope with growing energy demands, power companies often prefer building more power plants because they profit from selling more energy to their customers, instead of encouraging more efficient use of energy. Should power companies be required to invest in energy efficient practices? If power companies should be required to invest in energy efficiency, press 1. If not, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.

*Should invest*..... 79% *Not sure* ..... 7%  
*Should not invest*... 15%

**Q8** Some believe building new nuclear power plants is part of the solution to addressing global warming. But building new nuclear plants will require power companies to raise the rates they charge their customers. Would you support the construction of new nuclear plants in North Carolina even if it meant your electricity bill would increase? If you would support new nuclear plants, press 1. If oppose, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.

*Support* .....36% *Not Sure*..... 7%  
*Oppose* .....57%



**Q9** To meet future energy needs in North Carolina, power companies will have to increase electricity rates. Would you more support power companies using revenue to develop renewable energy sources or nuclear power plants? If you more strongly support using revenue towards developing renewable energy sources, press 1. If you more strongly support using revenue to develop nuclear power plants, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.

*Renewable Energy* 77% *Not sure* ..... 6%  
*Nuclear Power*..... 17%

**Q10** When should electric customers have to start paying for new power plants? Before they start producing electricity or after they start producing electricity? If you think customers should start paying before, press 1. If after, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.

*Before* ..... 16% *Not Sure*..... 12%  
*After* ..... 72%

**Q11** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

*Women* .....56% *Men*.....44%

**Q12** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If Republican, press 2. If other, press 3.

*Democrat* .....41% *Other*.....22%  
*Republican*.....38%

**Q13** If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If Hispanic, press 3. If other, press

*White* .....79% *Other*..... 4%  
*Black*.....17%

**Q14** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If older than 65, press 4.

*18-29*..... 7% *46-65*.....46%  
*30-45*.....17% *Older than 65*.....29%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Is Global Warming a serious threat?</b>			
<b>Serious Threat</b>	62%	72%	49%
<b>Unproven Theory</b>	33%	24%	45%
<b>Not Sure</b>	5%	5%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Who should Reduce Pollutants</b>			
<b>NC gov</b>	76%	85%	64%
<b>Federal gov</b>	15%	11%	20%
<b>Not a gov issue</b>	9%	5%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Expansion of Solar Power</b>			
<b>Support</b>	89%	92%	84%
<b>Oppose</b>	11%	8%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Expansion of Wind Energy</b>			
<b>Support</b>	88%	91%	83%
<b>Oppose</b>	12%	9%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Expansion of Coal</b>			
<b>Support</b>	37%	30%	46%
<b>Oppose</b>	63%	70%	54%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Expansion of Nuclear Power</b>			
<b>Support</b>	61%	53%	72%
<b>Oppose</b>	39%	47%	28%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Should power companies invest in energy efficiency</b>			
<b>Should invest</b>	79%	84%	72%
<b>Should not invest</b>	15%	9%	22%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	7%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Support construction of new nuclear plants</b>			
<b>Support</b>	36%	26%	48%
<b>Oppose</b>	57%	67%	44%
<b>Not Sure</b>	7%	7%	8%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Do you more support revenue towards renewable energy or nuclear power plants</b>			
Renewable Energy	77%	82%	70%
Nuclear Power	17%	10%	26%
Not sure	6%	8%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Should power customers start paying before or after?</b>			
Before	16%	15%	16%
After	72%	69%	76%
Not Sure	12%	16%	7%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Is Global Warming a serious threat?</b>				
Serious Threat	62%	86%	35%	63%
Unproven Theory	33%	9%	62%	29%
Not Sure	5%	5%	3%	8%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Who should Reduce Pollutants</b>				
NC gov	76%	90%	62%	73%
Federal gov	15%	8%	22%	16%
Not a gov issue	9%	2%	16%	11%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Expansion of Solar Power</b>				
Support	89%	88%	84%	98%
Oppose	11%	12%	16%	2%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Expansion of Wind Energy</b>				
Support	88%	91%	84%	88%
Oppose	12%	9%	16%	12%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Expansion of Coal</b>				
Support	37%	27%	50%	36%
Oppose	63%	73%	50%	64%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Expansion of Nuclear Power</b>				
Support	61%	53%	69%	62%
Oppose	39%	47%	31%	38%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Should power companies invest in energy efficiency</b>				
<b>Should invest</b>	79%	89%	70%	74%
<b>Should not invest</b>	15%	4%	21%	23%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	7%	8%	3%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Support construction of new nuclear plants</b>				
<b>Support</b>	36%	22%	46%	45%
<b>Oppose</b>	57%	70%	47%	48%
<b>Not Sure</b>	7%	8%	7%	7%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Do you more support revenue towards renewable energy or nuclear power plants</b>				
<b>Renewable Energy</b>	77%	88%	66%	75%
<b>Nuclear Power</b>	17%	6%	28%	18%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	6%	6%	7%

	Base	Party affiliation		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Should power customers start paying before or after?</b>				
<b>Before</b>	16%	13%	19%	15%
<b>After</b>	72%	76%	70%	67%
<b>Not Sure</b>	12%	11%	11%	17%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Is Global Warming a serious threat?</b>				
<b>Serious Threat</b>	62%	61%	72%	45%
<b>Unproven Theory</b>	33%	35%	18%	55%
<b>Not Sure</b>	5%	4%	10%	-

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Who should Reduce Pollutants</b>				
<b>NC gov</b>	76%	73%	92%	45%
<b>Federal gov</b>	15%	16%	8%	29%
<b>Not a gov issue</b>	9%	11%	-	26%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Expansion of Solar Power</b>				
<b>Support</b>	89%	92%	77%	81%
<b>Oppose</b>	11%	8%	23%	19%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Expansion of Wind Energy</b>				
<b>Support</b>	88%	90%	82%	74%
<b>Oppose</b>	12%	10%	18%	26%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Expansion of Coal</b>				
<b>Support</b>	37%	36%	41%	45%
<b>Oppose</b>	63%	64%	59%	55%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Expansion of Nuclear Power</b>				
<b>Support</b>	61%	60%	62%	71%
<b>Oppose</b>	39%	40%	38%	29%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Should power companies invest in energy efficiency</b>				
<b>Should invest</b>	79%	79%	82%	55%
<b>Should not invest</b>	15%	14%	13%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	6%	5%	16%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Support construction of new nuclear plants</b>				
<b>Support</b>	36%	39%	13%	68%
<b>Oppose</b>	57%	55%	74%	29%
<b>Not Sure</b>	7%	6%	13%	3%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Do you more support revenue towards renewable energy or nuclear power plants</b>				
<b>Renewable Energy</b>	77%	77%	82%	61%
<b>Nuclear Power</b>	17%	17%	11%	39%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	6%	8%	-

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
<b>Should power customers start paying before or after?</b>				
<b>Before</b>	16%	17%	8%	29%
<b>After</b>	72%	70%	85%	61%
<b>Not Sure</b>	12%	14%	8%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Is Global Warming a serious threat?</b>					
<b>Serious Threat</b>	62%	65%	58%	65%	58%
<b>Unproven Theory</b>	33%	21%	40%	34%	32%
<b>Not Sure</b>	5%	15%	1%	1%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Who should Reduce Pollutants</b>					
<b>NC gov</b>	76%	82%	71%	74%	78%
<b>Federal gov</b>	15%	6%	16%	18%	12%
<b>Not a gov issue</b>	10%	12%	14%	7%	10%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Expansion of Solar Power</b>					
<b>Support</b>	89%	100%	95%	92%	77%
<b>Oppose</b>	11%	-	5%	8%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Expansion of Wind Energy</b>					
<b>Support</b>	88%	94%	93%	89%	81%
<b>Oppose</b>	12%	6%	7%	11%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Expansion of Coal</b>					
<b>Support</b>	37%	51%	38%	33%	41%
<b>Oppose</b>	63%	49%	62%	67%	59%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Expansion of Nuclear Power</b>					
<b>Support</b>	61%	56%	60%	61%	63%
<b>Oppose</b>	39%	44%	40%	39%	37%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Should power companies invest in energy efficiency</b>					
<b>Should invest</b>	79%	71%	73%	84%	75%
<b>Should not invest</b>	15%	23%	21%	10%	16%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	6%	6%	5%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Support construction of new nuclear plants</b>					
<b>Support</b>	36%	28%	40%	33%	40%
<b>Oppose</b>	57%	54%	54%	60%	54%
<b>Not Sure</b>	7%	18%	6%	7%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Do you more support revenue towards renewable energy or nuclear power plants</b>					
<b>Renewable Energy</b>	77%	65%	72%	81%	76%
<b>Nuclear Power</b>	17%	21%	18%	15%	19%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	15%	10%	4%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Should power customers start paying before or after?</b>					
<b>Before</b>	16%	31%	11%	17%	13%
<b>After</b>	72%	54%	75%	74%	71%
<b>Not Sure</b>	12%	15%	14%	9%	16%

