

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Texas Voters Side with Obama, Against Barton

Raleigh, N.C. – Texas voters are giving Congressman Joe Barton some heat for his recent comments in a U.S. House committee hearing in which he expressed shame for how BP has been treated by the White House.

Barton personally apologized to BP CEO Tony Hayward for what he termed a “shakedown,” when President Obama asked BP to set up a \$20 billion escrow fund to compensate oil spill victims. Only 18% of Texans believe BP deserved that apology; 65% think they did not. Independents, at 75%, are the strongest partisan group opposing the apology, greater than the 65% of Democrats who say the same. Even 56% of Republicans join them. Similarly, 64% think Obama was right to have requested that BP establish that fund, to 27% who think he was not. Fully 88% of Texas Democrats agree with Obama’s move, along with 59% of independents. Even 45% of Republicans do, to 41% who do not.

Barton may escape this controversy with his leadership post on the House Energy and Commerce Committee intact, though a decent plurality of Texans, 42%, would rather see him step down. 31% think he should keep his position as the ranking Republican on the committee. 54% of Republicans support Barton on this question, but 67% of Democrats and 45% of independents go against him.

Though he only serves a small portion of the state, and regularly gets re-elected in his strongly Republican district, Barton is now more unpopular than popular statewide. 28% have an unfavorable opinion of him, to 21% who have a favorable one. Democrats and independents are slightly more negative on Barton than Republicans are high on him.

“Joe Barton’s comments didn’t play well even with the Republican base in Texas,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “It’s no wonder that many leading GOP politicians have hurried to repudiate his statement.”

PPP surveyed 500 Texas voters from June 19th to 21st. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.4%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.



Texas Survey Results

Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Congressman Joe Barton?

Favorable 21% *Not Sure*..... 52%

Unfavorable..... 28%

Q2 Do you think BP deserves an apology for being asked by the president to compensate the oil spill victims?

Yes 18%

No 65%

Not sure 17%

Q3 Do you think President Obama was right to have asked BP to set up a \$20 billion fund to compensate oil spill victims?

Yes 64%

No 27%

Not sure 10%

Q4 Do you think Joe Barton, the top Republican on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, should keep his leadership post on that committee, or should he resign from it?

Yes 31%

No 42%

Not sure 27%

Q5 Who did you vote for President last year?

John McCain..... 51%

Barack Obama..... 40%

Someone Else/Don't Remember..... 9%

Q6 If you are a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 13%

Moderate..... 41%

Conservative..... 46%

Q7 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman 51%

Man..... 49%

Q8 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat..... 37%

Republican..... 43%

Independent/Other..... 20%

Q9 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic..... 17%

White 66%

African American 12%

Other..... 5%

Q10 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

18 to 29..... 5%

30 to 45..... 26%

46 to 65..... 48%

Older than 65..... 21%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Barton Favorability				
Favorable	21%	32%	7%	19%
Unfavorable	28%	17%	42%	22%
Not Sure	52%	51%	51%	59%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
BP Deserve Apology				
Yes	18%	20%	16%	20%
No	65%	60%	73%	57%
Not sure	17%	20%	11%	23%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama Right on BP Spill Fund				
Yes	64%	44%	88%	68%
No	27%	43%	9%	12%
Not sure	10%	13%	3%	20%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Barton Keep Leadership post				
Keep Post	31%	53%	6%	18%
Resign	42%	21%	69%	36%
Not sure	27%	26%	25%	46%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Barton Favorability				
Favorable	21%	4%	11%	34%
Unfavorable	28%	44%	36%	16%
Not Sure	52%	53%	53%	50%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
BP Deserve Apology				
Yes	18%	17%	13%	23%
No	65%	65%	77%	54%
Not sure	17%	18%	9%	23%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Right on BP Spill Fund				
Yes	64%	81%	81%	43%
No	27%	5%	15%	43%
Not sure	10%	13%	4%	14%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Barton Keep Leadership post				
Keep Post	31%	14%	14%	51%
Resign	42%	59%	58%	22%
Not sure	27%	27%	28%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Barton Favorability			
Favorable	21%	18%	23%
Unfavorable	28%	23%	33%
Not Sure	52%	59%	44%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
BP Deserve Apology			
Yes	18%	16%	20%
No	65%	63%	67%
Not sure	17%	21%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Right on BP Spill Fund			
Yes	64%	66%	61%
No	27%	21%	32%
Not sure	10%	13%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Barton Keep Leadership post			
Keep Post	31%	28%	34%
Resign	42%	38%	45%
Not sure	27%	34%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Barton Favorability				
Favorable	21%	10%	33%	14%
Unfavorable	28%	36%	18%	35%
Not Sure	52%	55%	49%	51%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
BP Deserve Apology				
Yes	18%	17%	23%	12%
No	65%	69%	56%	75%
Not sure	17%	14%	21%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Right on BP Spill Fund				
Yes	64%	88%	45%	59%
No	27%	8%	41%	29%
Not sure	10%	5%	13%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Barton Keep Leadership post				
Keep Post	31%	6%	54%	29%
Resign	42%	67%	18%	45%
Not sure	27%	28%	28%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Barton Favorability					
Favorable	21%	13%	24%	10%	26%
Unfavorable	28%	31%	25%	33%	34%
Not Sure	52%	56%	50%	57%	40%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
BP Deserve Apology					
Yes	18%	10%	21%	17%	20%
No	65%	77%	61%	70%	60%
Not sure	17%	13%	18%	13%	20%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Obama Right on BP Spill Fund					
Yes	64%	67%	56%	97%	69%
No	27%	26%	31%	3%	23%
Not sure	10%	8%	12%	-	9%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Barton Keep Leadership post					
Keep Post	31%	10%	41%	3%	34%
Resign	42%	59%	31%	70%	54%
Not sure	27%	31%	28%	27%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Barton Favorability					
Favorable	21%	14%	19%	23%	20%
Unfavorable	28%	40%	25%	28%	29%
Not Sure	52%	47%	56%	50%	51%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
BP Deserve Apology					
Yes	18%	28%	15%	19%	19%
No	65%	72%	67%	68%	54%
Not sure	17%	-	18%	13%	27%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Right on BP Spill Fund					
Yes	64%	73%	63%	66%	58%
No	27%	23%	26%	26%	29%
Not sure	10%	4%	11%	8%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Barton Keep Leadership post					
Keep Post	31%	18%	28%	34%	31%
Resign	42%	55%	38%	44%	37%
Not sure	27%	27%	34%	22%	32%

