

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS:

AMERICANS WANT EPA TO DO MORE, NOT LESS

Keep the EPA Strong – Let Them Do Their Job.

February 2, 2011

This ORC International survey conducted for the Natural Resources Defense Council presents the findings of a telephone poll conducted among a national probability sample of 1,007 adults comprising 500 men and 507 women 18 years of age and older, living in private households in the continental United States. Interviewing for the ORC International survey was completed during the period January 27-30, 2011. The margin of error for results based on the total sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

- ***Americans want the EPA to do more, not less.*** Almost two thirds of Americans (63 percent) say “the EPA needs to do more to hold polluters accountable and protect the air and water,” versus under a third (29 percent) who think the EPA already “does too much and places too many costly restrictions on businesses and individuals.” Well under than half of Republicans (44 percent), less than a third of Independents (29 percent) and under a fifth of Democrats (16 percent) think the EPA is going too far today.
- ***Americans do not want Congress to kill the EPA’s anti-pollution updates.*** Only 18 percent of Americans – including fewer than a third of Republicans (32 percent) -- believe that “Congress should block the EPA from updating pollution safeguards,” after being told: “Some members of Congress are proposing to block the Environmental Protection Agency from updating safeguards to protect our health from dangerous air pollution, saying they will cost businesses too much money.” More than three out of four Americans (77 percent) -- including 61 percent of Republicans – say “Congress (should) let the EPA do its job.”
- ***The majority of Republicans – and all Americans – oppose the former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich’s plan to dismantle the EPA.*** Overall, only 25 percent of Americans agree with Gingrich’s call to eliminate the EPA. More than two out of three Americans (67 percent) oppose abolishing the EPA, including half (49 percent) who strongly oppose it. Among those opposing the Gingrich plan: 61 percent of Republicans, 57 percent of Independents, and 79 percent of Democrats.
- ***Support is weak for the “Gingrich EPA” replacement agency.*** The Gingrich plan for the EPA to be “replaced by an agency that would place equal consideration for corporate

interests as it does for protecting American families against air and water pollution” is supported by fewer than two out of five Americans (39 percent).

*Topline results of 1,007 telephone interviews with American adults,
conducted January 27-30, 2011*

P1 Which point of view on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, do you agree with more?

[ROTATE ITEMS]

The people who say that the EPA needs to do more to hold polluters accountable and protect the air and water? (or)

The people who say that the EPA does too much and places too many costly restrictions on businesses and individuals? (or)

(IF DO MORE/DOES TOO MUCH, ASK) And would you say you feel that way STRONGLY or SOMEWHAT?

	Total	REGION				PARTY		
		North East	Mid-west	South	West	Rep/lean Rep	Dem/lean Dem	Ind
n=	(1,007)	(189)	(229)	(362)	(227)	(448)	(421)	(94)
<i>DO MORE</i>	63%	64%	52%	69%	64%	49%	77%	64%
Strongly	37%	37%	28%	41%	39%	25%	45%	48%
Somewhat	26%	27%	24%	28%	26%	24%	32%	17%
<i>DOES TOO MUCH</i>	29%	30%	38%	23%	30%	44%	16%	29%
Somewhat	11%	14%	14%	7%	13%	15%	7%	15%
Strongly	18%	16%	25%	16%	17%	29%	9%	15%
NEITHER	5%	4%	7%	5%	3%	5%	4%	5%
DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%

P2 The Associated Press reported that former U.S. House speaker Newt Gingrich called this week to eliminate the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or EPA.

Would you support or oppose a proposal to eliminate the EPA?

(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK) And is that STRONGLY (support/oppose) or SOMEWHAT (support/oppose)?

	Total	REGION				PARTY		
		North East	Mid-west	South	West	Rep/lean Rep	Dem/lean Dem	Ind
n=	(1,007)	(189)	(229)	(362)	(227)	(448)	(421)	(94)
<i>SUPPORT</i>	25%	22%	31%	24%	24%	33%	17%	19%
Strongly support	14%	13%	17%	13%	16%	20%	6%	15%
Somewhat support	11%	9%	14%	11%	8%	14%	11%	4%
<i>OPPOSE</i>	67%	68%	61%	69%	71%	61%	79%	57%
Somewhat oppose	19%	18%	21%	16%	24%	25%	14%	22%
Strongly oppose	49%	51%	40%	53%	47%	36%	65%	35%
DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE	7%	10%	8%	7%	5%	6%	4%	24%

P3 According to the Associated Press, in calling for the elimination of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich also said that it should be replaced by an agency that would place equal consideration for corporate interests as it does for protecting American families against air and water pollution.

Would you support or oppose a proposal to replace the EPA with such an agency?

(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK) And is that STRONGLY (support/oppose) or SOMEWHAT (support/oppose)?

	Total	REGION				PARTY		
		North East	Mid-west	South	West	Rep/lean Rep	Dem/lean Dem	Ind
n=	(1,007)	(189)	(229)	(362)	(227)	(448)	(421)	(94)
<i>SUPPORT</i>	39%	34%	44%	38%	40%	55%	27%	21%
Strongly support	18%	16%	17%	22%	17%	30%	8%	11%
Somewhat support	20%	18%	27%	16%	23%	24%	19%	11%
<i>OPPOSE</i>	52%	51%	49%	52%	55%	38%	67%	54%
Somewhat oppose	17%	16%	22%	16%	14%	17%	17%	18%
Strongly oppose	35%	35%	27%	37%	41%	21%	50%	36%
DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE	9%	14%	8%	10%	5%	7%	6%	25%

P4 Some members of Congress are proposing to block the Environmental Protection Agency from updating safeguards to protect our health from dangerous air pollution, saying they will cost businesses too much money.

Do you believe Congress should block the EPA from updating pollution safeguards or should Congress let the EPA do its job?

	REGION					PARTY		
	Total	North East	Mid-west	South	West	Rep/lean Rep	Dem/lean Dem	Ind
n=	(1,007)	(189)	(229)	(362)	(227)	(448)	(421)	(94)
<i>CONGRESS SHOULD BLOCK THE EPA</i>	18%	16%	21%	17%	17%	32%	6%	14%
CONGRESS SHOULD LET THE EPA DO ITS JOB	77%	77%	75%	76%	78%	61%	90%	82%
DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE	6%	7%	4%	7%	5%	7%	4%	4%