

Support for Energy Bill in Oregon

Poll conducted by Tom Jensen, Director of Public Policy Polling

Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley both have the opportunity to play a pivotal role in the passage of historic energy legislation by providing vital leadership in support of a new Senate bill. A statewide survey we conducted on May 19th and 20th in Oregon finds that their constituents are strongly supportive of the American Power Act, introduced last month by Senators John Kerry and Joe Lieberman and that their votes for the bill would likely be a political benefit back home:

- Oregon voters support the overall bill 57/39. Support for the bill is overwhelming among Democrats, who break for it by an 81/14 margin. The senators' own party's voters are eager to see Congress do something substantial on energy.
- Voters in Oregon are particularly excited about the new jobs in clean energy industries that passage of the bill would generate. That aspect has 75% support. It has strong bipartisan appeal, with 90% of Democrats, 65% of Republicans, and 60% of independents saying the bill creating green jobs makes them more likely to support it.
- There is overwhelming support for many of the key objectives the bill hopes to accomplish. 59% of voters in Oregon would like to see the federal government invest more in clean energy technology. 65% think there should be stricter regulation of corporate polluters. And 78% want the country to reduce its dependence on foreign oil. That last figure includes 66% of Republicans and 72% of independents who are more likely to support the bill knowing that it will boost our national security.
- The spill in the Gulf of Mexico has Oregon residents feeling serious doubts about offshore drilling. 54% of voters say that the recent events have made them more opposed to drilling off the Oregon coastline. 76% of Democrats say that.
- The recent incident associated with offshore drilling has also increased public support for a comprehensive solution to the country's energy issues. 60% of all Oregon voters, and 80% of Oregon Democrats, say that the spill makes them more supportive of the bill being considered in Congress right now.

PPP interviewed 629 Oregon voters from May 19th to May 20th with a margin of error of +/-3.9%.