



**IPSOS-REID Poll Results:  
American Attitudes on Energy Issues and Bush National Energy Policy**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 14, 2001**

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**Results from 2 polls**

(WASHINGTON, D.C., November 14, 2001)—Ipsos-Reid, the independent public affairs polling firm, released today two separate surveys on issues related to energy and President George W. Bush’s National Energy Policy.

The first release includes a few results from the on-going Ipsos-Reid Public Perspectives on Continental Energy poll, the largest survey ever conducted of the North American public’s attitudes on energy, energy policies and the environment. “We have chosen to release these results today at the request of a client, Citizens For Real Energy Solutions, a pro-energy bill coalition, headed by former Congressman Vin Weber, because we believe they have public policy implications for Congress on energy,” said Thomas Riehle, President, U.S. Public Affairs at Ipsos-Reid. The Public Perspectives on Continental Energy poll is a syndicated survey to be released next month, in which subscribers pay for access to the comprehensive polling information on public attitudes on energy issues.

**Ipsos-Reid Public Perspectives on Continental Energy Poll**

*Between October 25-November 10, 2001, Ipsos-Reid interviewed a representative sample of 532 US adults nationwide by telephone. The margin of error is +/- 4.3%.*

**95% of Americans say Federal Action on energy is important, putting energy issues near the top of the public’s agenda, behind security issues, on a par with economic issues, ahead of health care and environmental issues at this time**

“Energy issues share with economic issues the urgency related to the current poor economy, and share with security issues the urgency related to the need for the U.S. to defend itself from overseas threats. That puts it near the top of the agenda,” reports Riehle.

Would you say it is very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important that the federal government address **(ITEM)** issues in the next 12 months?

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY IMPORTANT*

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not Very Important</u>	<u>Not At All Important</u>	<u>DK/NS</u>
Security.....	82	14	2	-	1
Economic.....	69	26	4	-	1
Energy.....	69	26	3	1	1
Health care.....	66	26	6	2	-
Environment and pollution.....	55	36	6	3	-



**Nearly half of all Americans (45%) say they have seen, read, or heard something about the Bush Administration’s National Energy Policy. Of those familiar with President Bush’s National Energy Policy, 60% say they support its implementation, whereas 26% say they oppose it**

“Awareness of the Bush Administration’s National Energy Policy is relatively high, with almost half (45%) professing some knowledge about it. More striking is the lopsided, 60%-26% support for those policies among those who say they have some knowledge of it. There does not appear to be a need for a lot more discussion—only a slim minority would want to learn about it and have not yet heard anything—and the combination of current events and the debate on energy policies so far has yielded a lot of public support for the President’s plan,” says Riehle.

Have you read seen or heard anything about the Bush Administration’s National Energy Policy?

Yes.....	45
No .....	54
DK/NS.....	2

**(ASKED ONLY IF RESPONDENT SAYS “YES”)**

And do you support or oppose the implementation of the National Energy Policy? Is that strongly or somewhat?

Strongly support.....	22
Somewhat support.....	38
Somewhat oppose .....	14
Strongly oppose.....	12
DK/NS.....	15

**More than three-in-four agree that energy independence is a national security issue, and between 70% to 75% agree it is time to strike a policy balance between domestic energy exploration and production on the one hand and the environment on the other.**

“A large majority agrees technology now makes it possible to explore for oil and gas in environmentally friendly ways, and agree a national energy policy can lock in conservation efforts,” Riehle says.

Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT AGREE*

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Somewhat Agree</u>	<u>Somewhat Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>DK/NS</u>
<b>(ASKED OF HALF THE SAMPLE)</b>					
Decreasing our dependence on foreign oil and gas is important to our national security .....	49	37	7	5	2
<b>(ASKED OF HALF THE SAMPLE)</b>					
Increasing domestic production of oil and gas is important to our national security.....	38	40	10	8	4
New technologies have made it possible to explore for oil and gas in environmentally friendly ways.....	29	46	12	5	8
The introduction of a national energy policy will help to boost energy conservation efforts.....	18	54	15	6	8
Passing a national energy policy will improve the economy and put people back to work .....	19	45	21	7	9



The second survey release from Ipsos-Reid today reports results from a survey this past weekend on specifics of the Energy Bill debate in Congress. “The survey was conducted for the Citizens for Real Energy Solutions, a coalition in favor of President Bush’s Energy Bill proposals,” said Thomas Riehle, President, U.S. Public Affairs at Ipsos-Reid.

### Ipsos-Reid/Citizens for Real Energy Solutions Poll

*Between November 9-November 12, 2001, Ipsos-Reid interviewed a representative sample of 733 US adults nationwide by telephone for the Citizens for Real Energy Solutions. The margin of error is +/- 3.7%.*

**Americans put a high priority on passing the Energy Bill, with 72% say current events make it a higher priority than “other action Congress might take these days”—Democrats, Independents and Republicans agree on placing a high priority on the bill**

“What stands out is the remarkable consensus on whether Congress should make the Energy Bill a higher priority than other actions it might take to deal with the twin threats of terrorism and a domestic economic downturn. More than 70% of Democrats, Republicans and Independents put this ahead of other Congressional issues today,” reports Riehle.

One of the issues being debated in Congress is the Energy Bill, to set new national policies on issues related to energy, oil exploration, development of alternative fuels, and prices. Does the current situation with the economy, the war on terrorism and other issues in the U.S. make the energy policy bill a much higher priority, a somewhat higher priority, somewhat lower priority or much lower priority compared to other action Congress might take these days?

Much higher priority .....	31
Somewhat higher priority .....	41
Somewhat lower priority .....	20
Much lower priority.....	5
Not sure .....	3

	All	Republicans	Democrats	Indep
Higher Priority	72	73	70	71
Lower Priority	25	25	26	25

**Two arguments stand out as the most convincing reasons for passing the Energy Bill, the public says: (1.) To promote U.S. energy independence, and (2.) As an important part of President Bush’s stimulus package. Also very persuasive is an argument about the need for energy exploration in “a wilderness area in Alaska called ANWR,” with 67% agreeing that careful exploration in ANWR is a fair trade if it creates jobs and if Alaskans believe it can be done safely.**

“Strong majorities find convincing each of six arguments for passing the Energy Bill that we presented respondents in the Citizens for Real Energy Solutions poll,” Riehle reports. “The strongest three, with more than 30% reporting they found each VERY convincing, were statements about energy independence, about the reference President Bush made in his television address regarding the link between jobs and energy independence—and perhaps most surprising to those who say that Senate action is hung up over the House version’s ANWR exploration provision—very strong public support for the need to carefully find and explore new energy sources in the U.S., including a wilderness area in Alaska called ANWR. Opponents of the bill can argue that they do not want to see the Alaskan wilderness area opened up to exploration, but they cannot necessarily claim that the public is on their side on that issue,” says Riehle.



I will read you some statements people make in support of President Bush’s energy policy bill, and for each one I read, tell me if that is a very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing, or not at all convincing reason for passing President Bush’s energy policy bill.

	<u>Very Convincing</u>	<u>Somewhat Convincing</u>	<u>Not Too Convincing</u>	<u>Not At All Convincing</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
Supporters of the bill say it will cut U.S. dependence on foreign oil by expanding domestic oil production in the U.S. American armed forces depend on oil from Iraq, for example, and terrorists threaten oil delivery from other foreign countries. That is a national security issue that needs to be fixed by passing the energy bill .....	36	38	14	11	1
Supporters of the bill say that we have to carefully find and develop new energy sources in the U.S., including a wilderness area in Alaska called ANWR. Exploration in ANWR will mean three-quarters of a million jobs to America, people who live in Alaska believe it would be environmentally acceptable, and over 75 percent of Alaskans favor oil exploration in ANWR .....	33	34	15	16	2
In his Thursday night address to the nation, President Bush said, “I made some proposals to stimulate economic growth which will create new jobs, and make America less dependent on foreign oil. And I ask Congress to work hard and put a stimulus plan into law to help the American people.” Congress should pass the President’s plan .....	31	42	14	12	1
President Bush’s energy bill will stimulate the economy by reducing energy prices and creating hundreds of thousands of jobs .....	29	36	21	13	1
Senate supporters of the bill say that it would create about 750,000 jobs and generate more than \$3 billion dollars for the Federal government in lease sales from oil companies. Overall, the bill would give the U.S. economy a \$300 billion dollar cash infusion .....	26	41	21	11	2
President Bush’s energy bill will bring competition and innovation to electric energy service for businesses and consumers .....	21	43	20	12	3