



Views on Environmental Regulations

*Key findings from five statewide surveys
conducted December 2014
for the Natural Resources Defense Council*

AMERICAN VIEWPOINT®

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Methodology

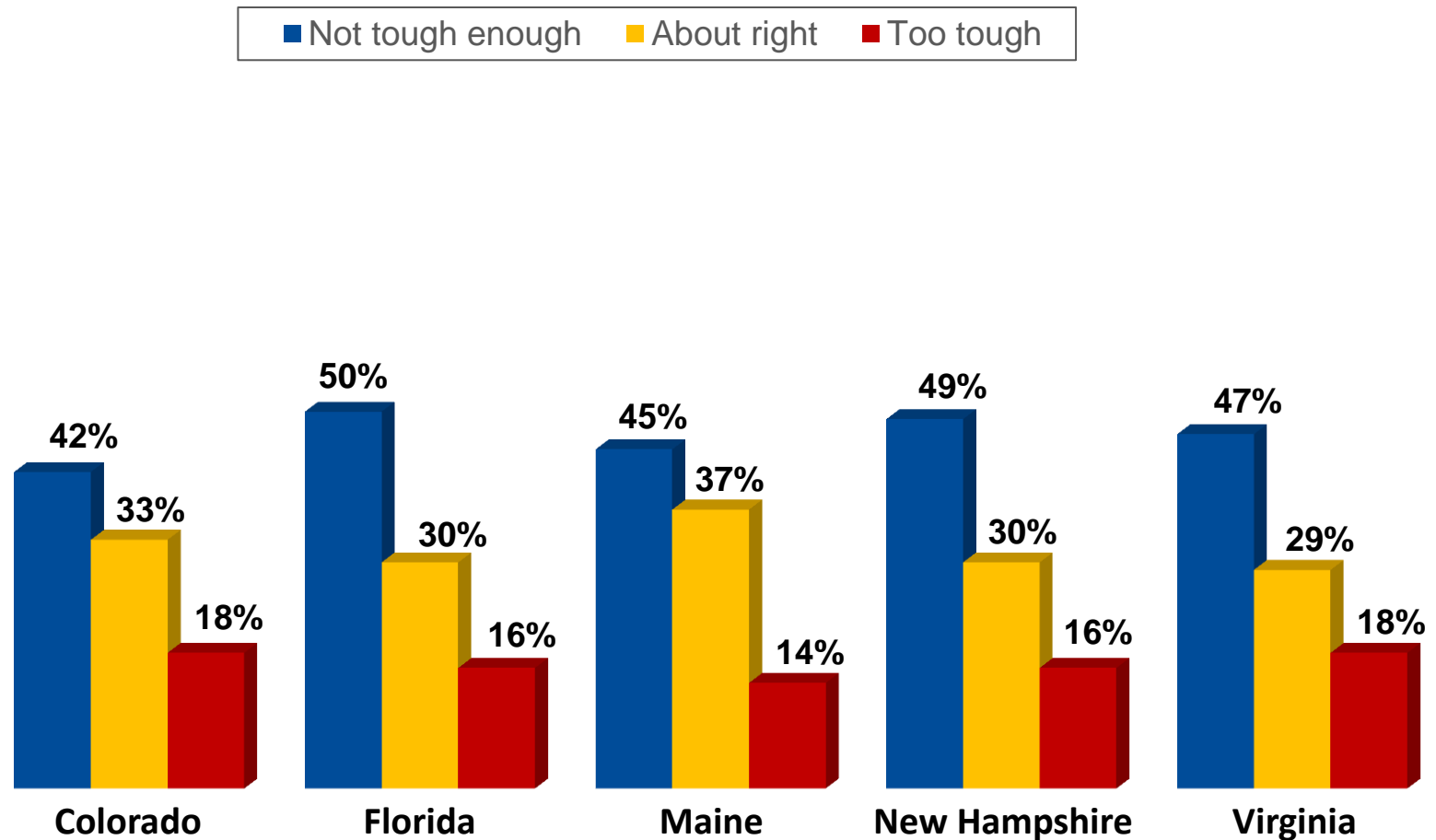
- Surveys were conducted December 9 – 16, 2014, among likely 2016 voters in five states, as follows:
 - 501 in Colorado
 - 701 in Florida
 - 500 in Maine
 - 500 in New Hampshire
 - 500 in Virginia
- The overall margin of error is ± 4.4 percentage points for the 500-person samples (± 3.7 percentage points for the 701-person sample), with higher tolerances among subgroups.
- The bipartisan polling team of Hart Research Associates (D) and American Viewpoint (R) conducted the research.

Key Findings

- There is no appetite of weakening environmental regulations. Most respondents in these states believe that enforcement of environmental regulations is not tough enough.
- There is a clear and significant preference for renewable energy sources over traditional ones, particularly among Democrats and independents, though among many Republicans as well.
- Across party lines, there is substantial support for the EPA's new limits on carbon pollution from power plants.
- Large majorities of respondents in each state initially endorse extending the Waters of the US rule to smaller sources of drinking water, and continue to do so after hearing arguments on each side of the debate.
- There is wide support for applying strict oversight to fracking operations.
- But there also is significant opposition to banning new fracking entirely; strict regulations and temporary moratoriums to study impacts of fracking are a potential compromise that most Americans would accept.

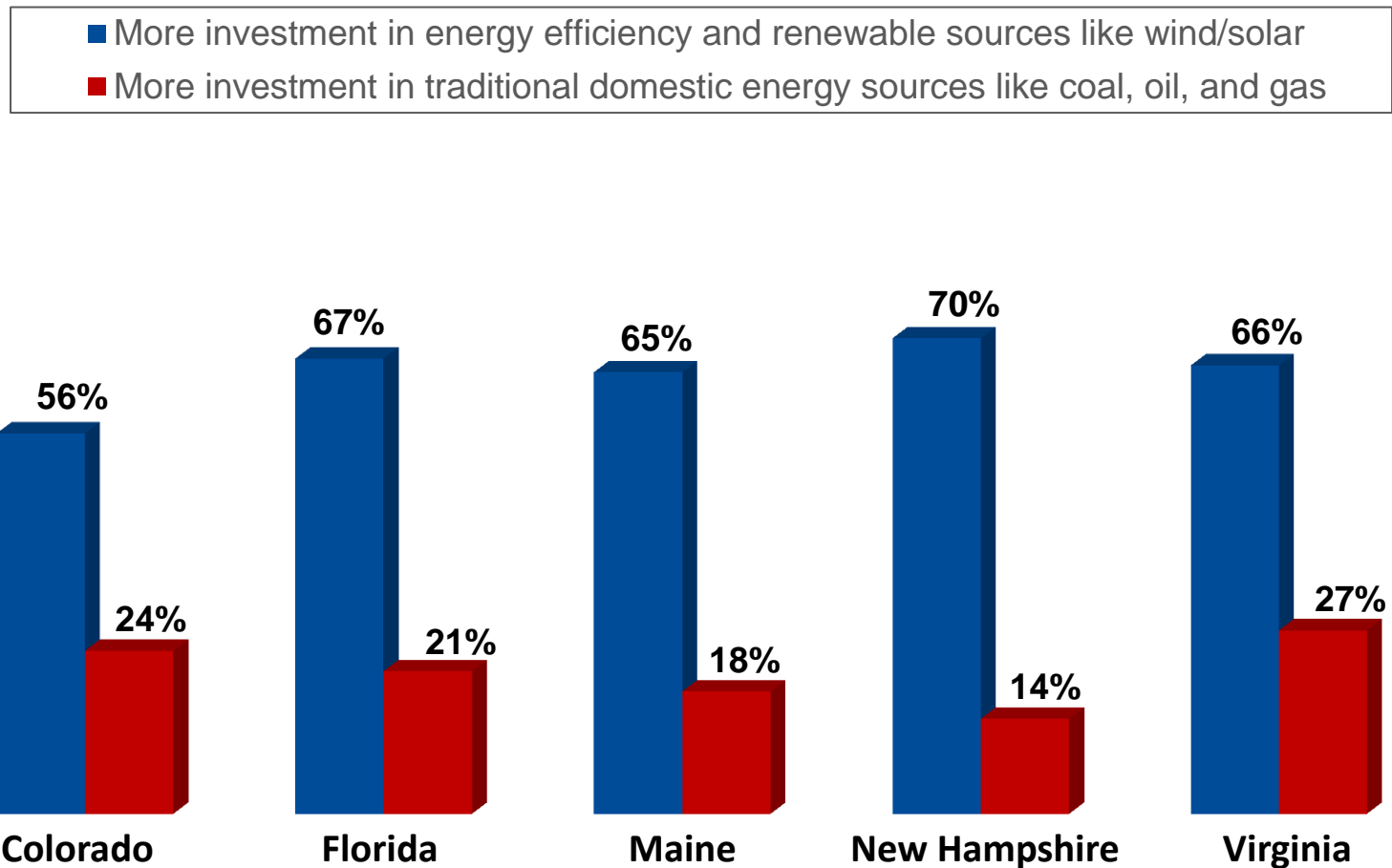
Pluralities believe that enforcement of environmental regulations is not tough enough, and there is no appetite for weakening enforcement.

Perceived Enforcement of Environmental Laws and Regulations in the United States



Americans definitively want more investment in energy efficiency and renewables, rather than traditional energy sources.

Which would you like to see here?



Many more Americans cite sustainable energy policies as high priorities than do so for KXL or offshore drilling.

Proportions rating each as an extremely important priority for government energy policies*

	Colorado	Florida	Maine	New Hampshire	Virginia
Expanding programs that encourage energy efficiency , like insulation and more efficient appliances for homes and business	62%	74%	75%	74%	72%
Investing in renewable energy such as wind and solar power	59%	69%	68%	69%	61%
Approving projects like the Keystone XL pipeline to carry more crude oil from Canada across the United States to the Gulf Coast	39%	39%	31%	30%	41%
Expanding offshore oil drilling in the ocean along US coastlines	32%	27%	26%	23%	36%

* 8-10 ratings on a zero-to-ten scale

In some states energy efficiency and renewables are as high a priority for Republicans as KXL.

Proportions rating each as an extremely important priority for government energy policies*

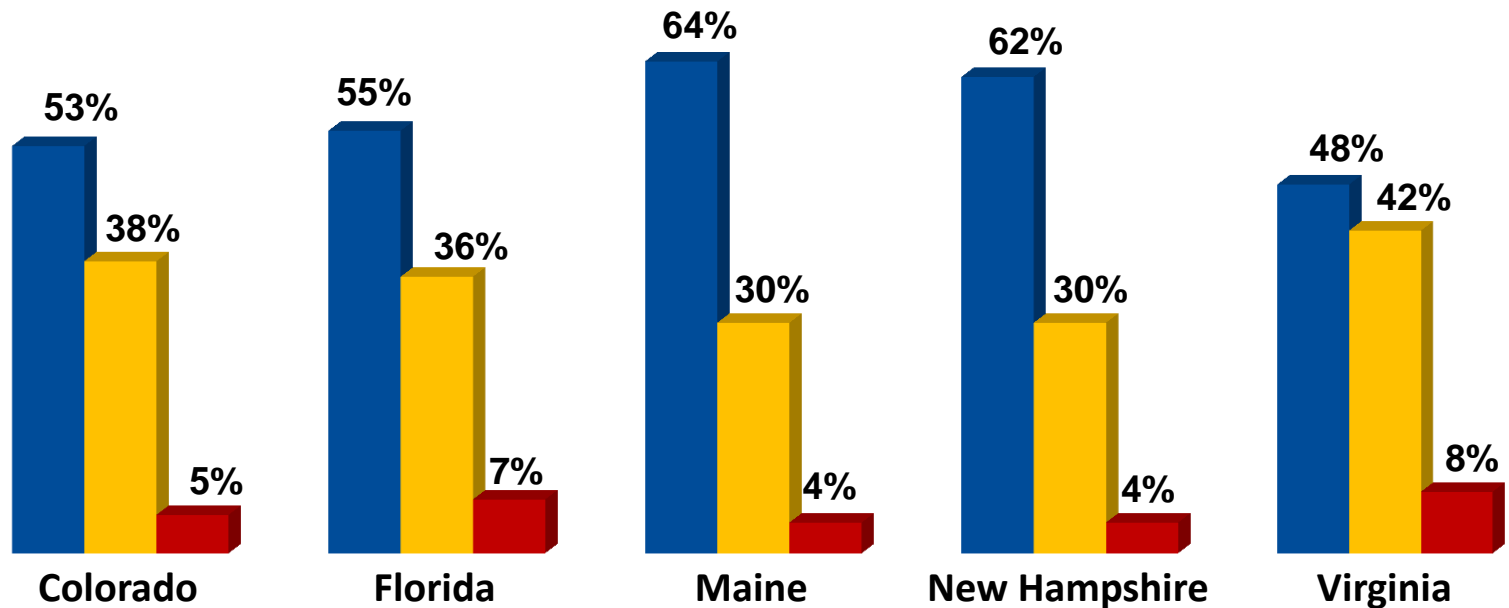
		Expanding programs that encourage energy efficiency	Investing in renewables	Approving projects like Keystone XL
Colorado	Democrats	68%	78%	12%
	Independents	66%	64%	31%
	Republicans	50%	35%	72%
Florida	Democrats	83%	84%	23%
	Independents	72%	75%	35%
	Republicans	66%	50%	59%
Maine	Democrats	81%	86%	17%
	Independents	78%	66%	23%
	Republicans	68%	50%	55%
New Hampshire	Democrats	81%	84%	13%
	Independents	86%	74%	28%
	Republicans	58%	49%	47%
Virginia	Democrats	82%	79%	24%
	Independents	73%	71%	25%
	Republicans	65%	43%	66%

* 8-10 ratings on a zero-to-ten scale

Majorities or pluralities across the board say that humans have a role in causing climate change.

Climate change is caused mostly by:

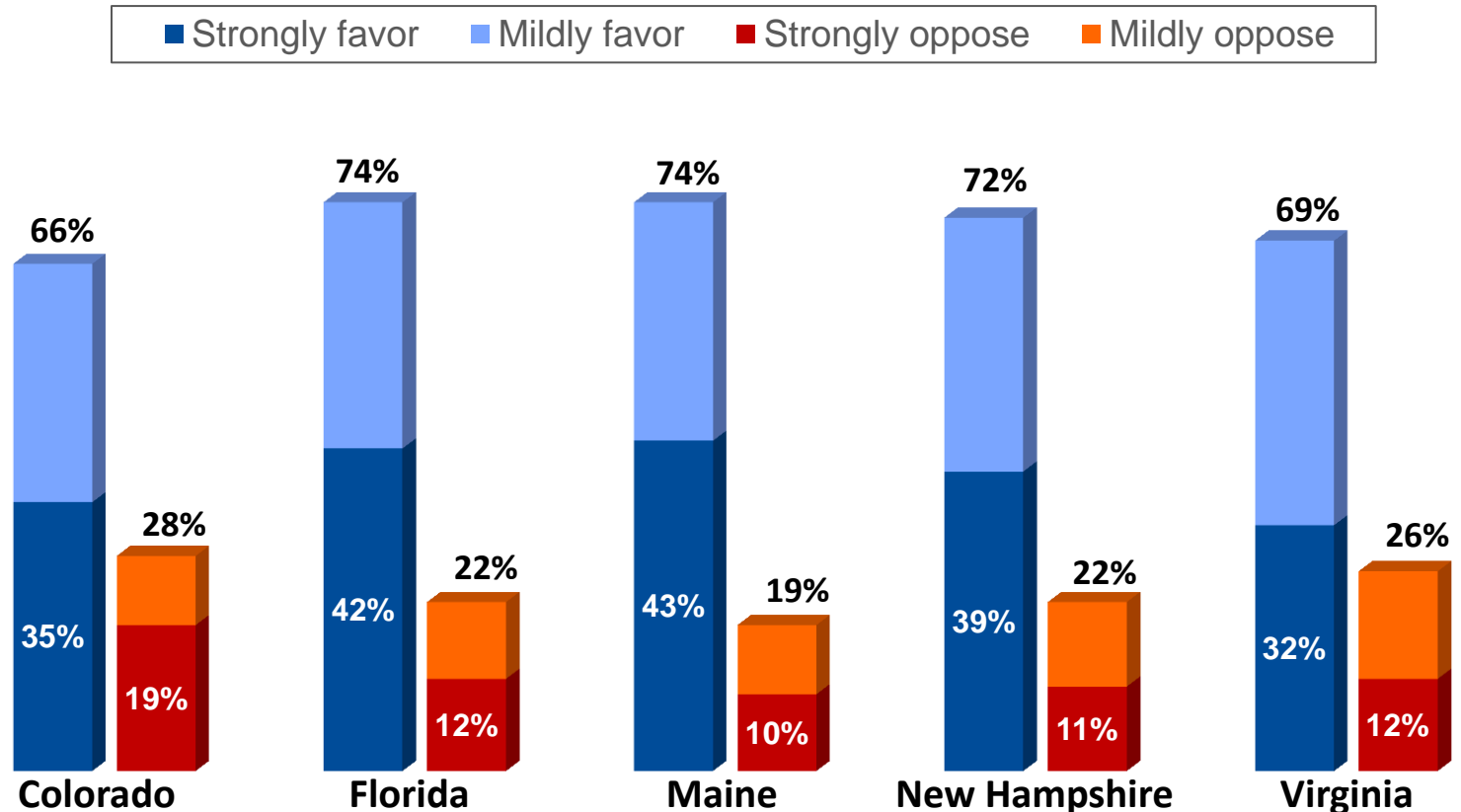
- Human activity like burning fossil fuels/both
- Natural patterns in the earth's environment
- Does not exist



Regardless, there is wide and deep support for the EPA's industrial carbon standards.

Support for EPA's Industrial Carbon Plan

Description prior to question: "The US Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a plan to address climate change that would reduce the amount of industrial carbon pollution released by power plants. Under the EPA, this plan would set the first-ever standards for power plants to limit the amount of carbon pollution they can emit."



Support for EPA carbon standards crosses party lines.

Support for EPA's Industrial Carbon Plan

		Favor	Oppose	Favorability margin
Colorado	Democrats	86%	10%	+76
	Independents	73%	22%	+51
	Republicans	41%	52%	-11
Florida	Democrats	89%	10%	+79
	Independents	80%	17%	+63
	Republicans	53%	40%	+13
Maine	Democrats	90%	6%	+84
	Independents	80%	12%	+68
	Republicans	53%	40%	+13
New Hampshire	Democrats	95%	3%	+92
	Independents	64%	26%	+38
	Republicans	54%	39%	+15
Virginia	Democrats	86%	13%	+73
	Independents	73%	19%	+54
	Republicans	54%	40%	+14

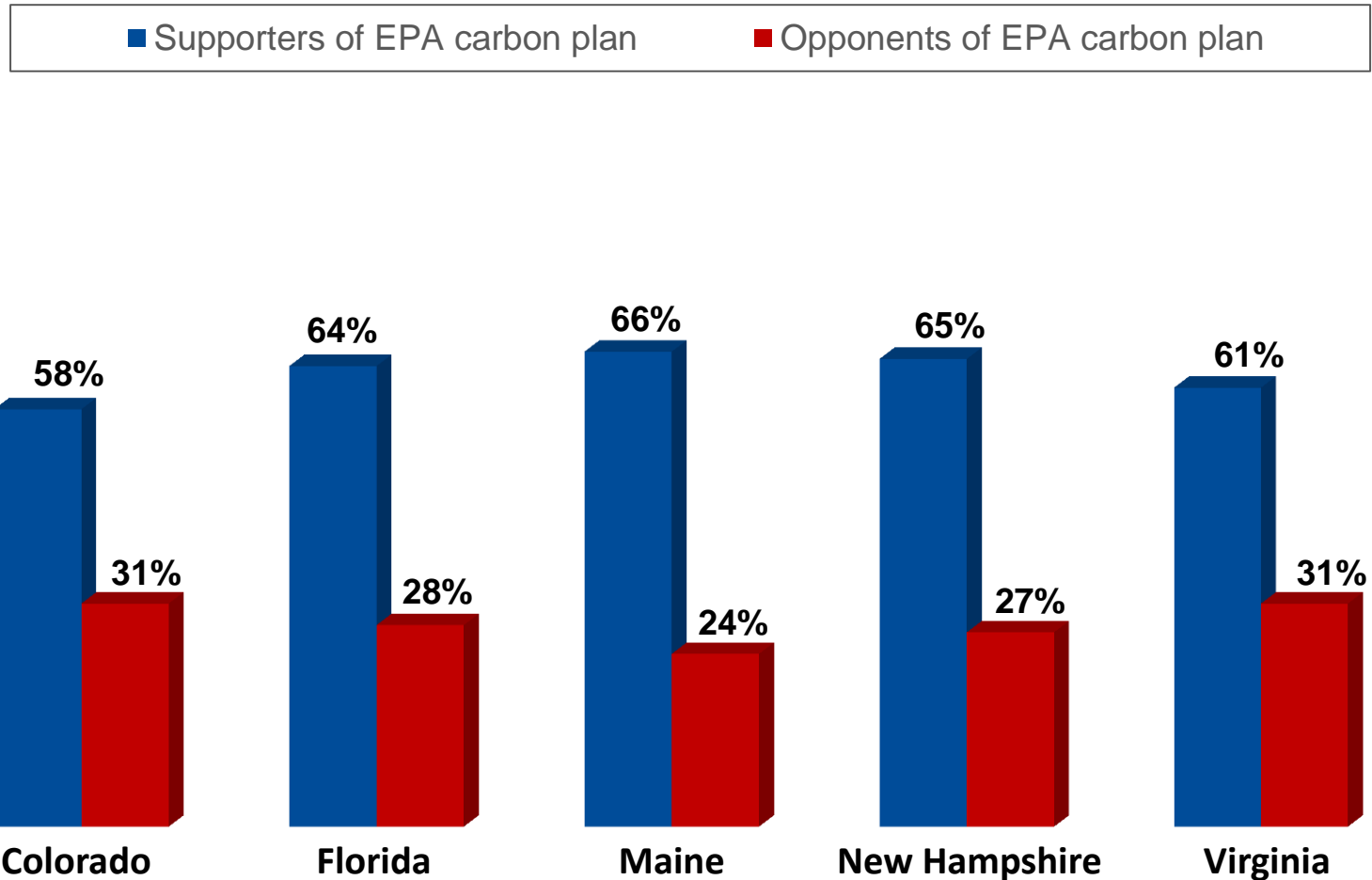
We presented strong arguments on carbon standards on both sides.

“OPPONENTS say that Obama's and Democrats' big government EPA regulations are going to drive up the cost of electricity for families by hundreds of dollars each year. They say that higher energy prices will hurt businesses and kill jobs. And they say it doesn't matter what we do because big polluters like China and India won't limit pollution and so we'll only be putting ourselves at an economic disadvantage, with more energy and manufacturing jobs shipped overseas.”

“SUPPORTERS say these new EPA limits on carbon pollution are necessary because we can no longer ignore the real consequences of carbon pollution including more childhood asthma attacks and the severe disruption of our climate. Currently, there are no limits at all on carbon pollution, even though there are limits for other pollutants like mercury, and now electric companies will have to clean up their dirtiest power plants and make greater use of clean energy technologies, including solar and wind power. Special interests that oppose these limits use scare tactics against them, but studies show that the move to cleaner energy can create more American jobs without major increases in electric bills.”

Large majorities of respondents in each state endorse the arguments of EPA regulation supporters.

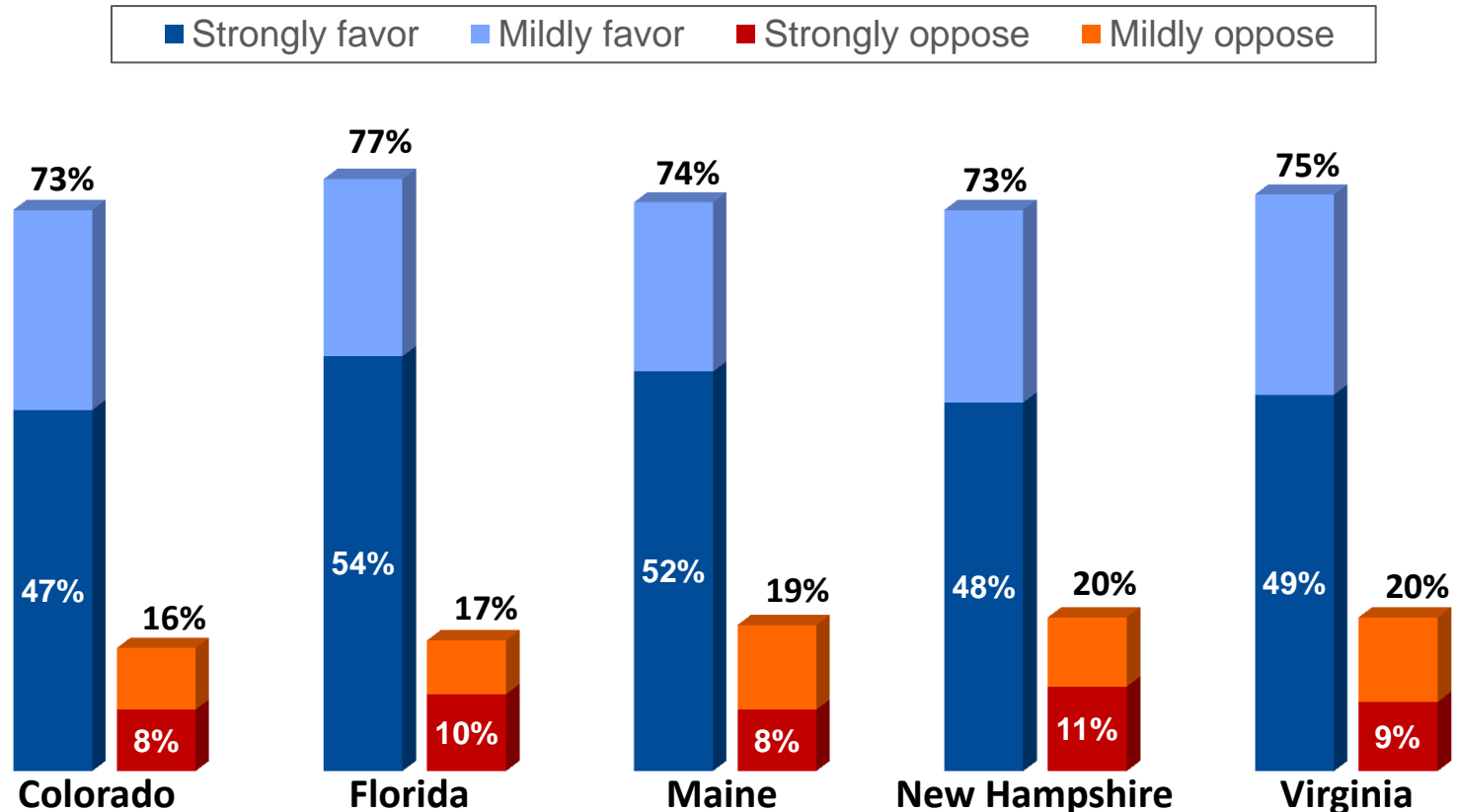
Whom do you trust more on this issue?



There is exceptionally high support for extending the Clean Water Rule.

Support for Applying Regulations to Smaller Sources of Drinking Water

Information prior to question: "There are government regulations in place to protect large sources of drinking water, such as lakes and rivers, from pollution. There are NOT rules in place to protect smaller sources of water, such as some streams and creeks."



We read respondents strong arguments in favor of and opposed to the Clean Water Rule.

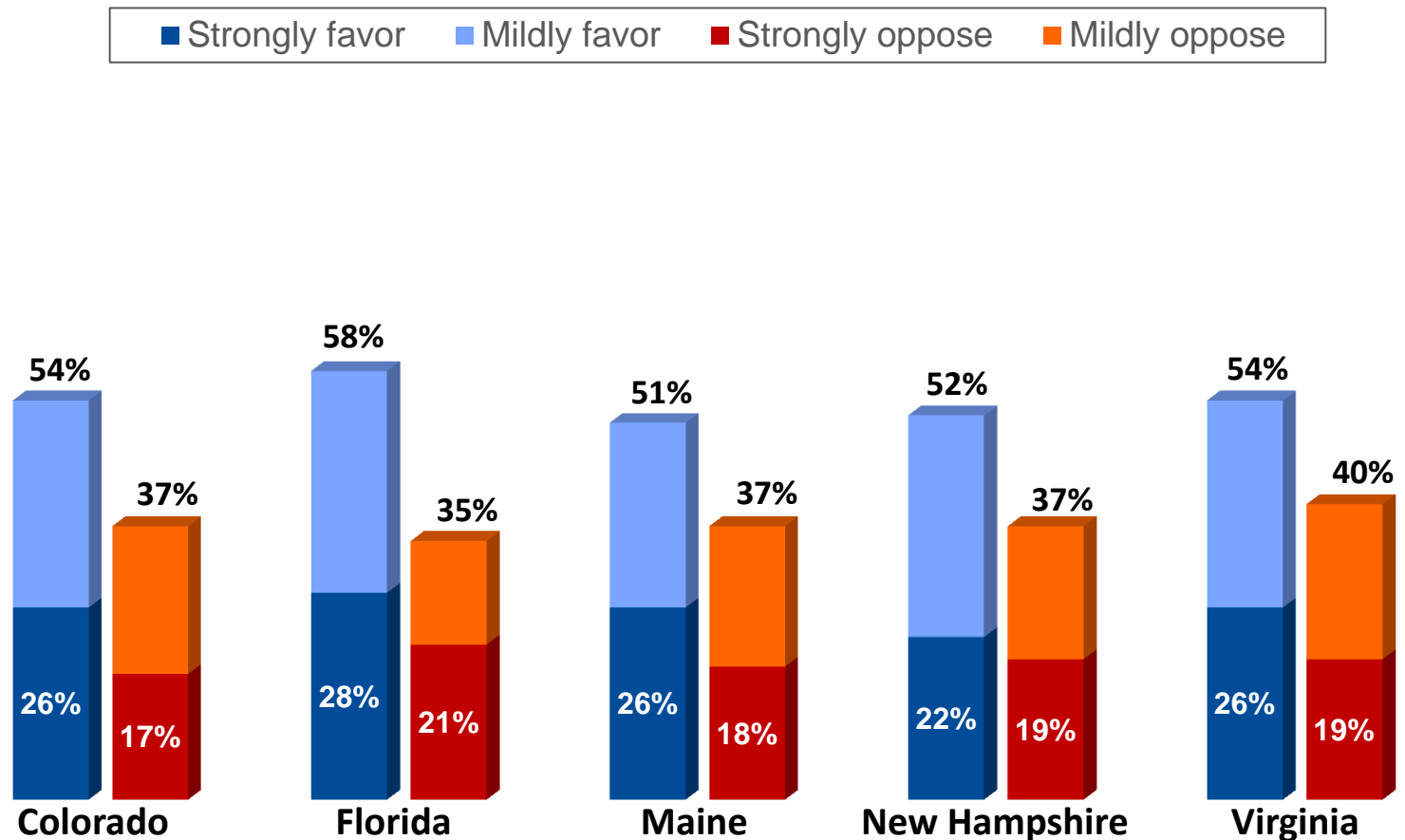
Arguments on Applying Regulations to Smaller Sources of Drinking Water

“SUPPORTERS say that extending these regulations would boost our economy by making sure more individuals and small business have access to clean water, lowering healthcare costs, and clearing the way for commerce. It would protect sources that one in three Americans rely upon for drinking water from pollution, and would do so without interrupting farming operations.”

“OPPONENTS say that these new regulations would be a land grab by the federal government and would expand its regulation of normal farming activities like building fences and digging ditches. These regulations would make it harder for farmers to carry out normal farming activities and raise food prices at a time when American farmers and families are already struggling to make ends meet.”

After “debate” about the rule, majorities remain in favor.

Support for Applying Regulations to Smaller Sources of Drinking Water after Arguments from Both Sides



There is wide support for strict regulation of fracking, but general opposition to banning new fracking operations.

Support for Potential Actions Related to Fracking in this State

	Colorado	Florida	Maine	New Hampshire	Virginia
Regulate fracking operations with strict rules to prevent or fix any negative impacts that fracking may have on nearby communities, wildlife, and water supplies	68% favor 25% oppose	69% favor 22% oppose	70% favor 18% oppose	69% favor 19% oppose	73% favor 21% oppose
Temporarily halt all fracking in our region while states study its potential impacts and determines how best to address them	46% favor 46% oppose	56% favor 32% oppose	57% favor 31% oppose	57% favor 32% oppose	56% favor 36% oppose
Prohibit new fracking entirely	31% favor 60% oppose	37% favor 49% oppose	37% favor 45% oppose	37% favor 47% oppose	34% favor 53% oppose

Temporary moratoriums are an area of potential compromise.

Support for Temporarily Halting All Fracking

		Support	Oppose	Support margin
Colorado	Democrats	64%	27%	+37
	Independents	49%	42%	+7
	Republicans	27%	68%	-41
Florida	Democrats	73%	18%	+55
	Independents	63%	25%	+38
	Republicans	36%	50%	-14
Maine	Democrats	74%	13%	+61
	Independents	65%	26%	+39
	Republicans	34%	51%	-17
New Hampshire	Democrats	72%	15%	+57
	Independents	62%	27%	+35
	Republicans	37%	53%	-16
Virginia	Democrats	71%	21%	+50
	Independents	57%	35%	+22
	Republicans	41%	50%	-9