



**To: Interested Parties**

**From: Paul Harstad and Chris Keating, *Harstad Strategic Research, Inc.***

**Date: July 16, 2007**

**Re: Voter Opinion on Global Warming and Reducing Carbon Emissions in Georgia's 12<sup>th</sup> CD**

---

HARSTAD STRATEGIC RESEARCH conducted 402 telephone surveys from June 6 to 11, 2007, among voters who reside in Georgia's 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. The worst case margin of error associated with a sample of 402 is plus-or-minus 4.9% at the 95% confidence level.

### **Key Survey Findings — Georgia's 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

▪ **Voters identify global warming as the number one environmental problem today.**

When asked to volunteer the top two or three environmental problems or issues today, 41% of voters say *global warming / carbon emissions*. The focus on global warming eclipses longstanding environmental problems like *air pollution / clean air* (cited by 37%) or *water pollution / clean water* (cited by 29%).

▪ **More than 7 out of 10 voters consider global warming to be a serious problem.**

Fully, 74% of voters say that global warming is an *extremely, very, or fairly serious* problem, while only 24% of voters dismiss it as *just somewhat* or *not at all serious*. When asked when the effects of global warming will begin to happen, 77% of voters say the effects are *already happening* (62%), or *will happen within their lifetime* (15%).

▪ **Voters overwhelmingly agree we should start now to reduce global warming pollution.**

Given a choice, more than 3 out of 4 (77%) voters agree *we should start now to gradually reduce global warming pollution, with bigger declines in the future*, while only 17% of voters agree *we should wait to set pollution limits until cleaner technologies are available*.

▪ **In keeping with the call to action on global warming, more than two out of three voters favor a carbon cap and trade proposal to reduce global warming pollution in the United States.**

When voters hear a detailed description of the carbon emissions cap and trade proposal, a 68% majority *favor* the proposal, versus 23% who *oppose* it. Support for this carbon cap and trade proposal is broad based, and it is favored by a majority of men (61% favor), women (75% favor), young (76% of age 18-39 favor) and old (65% of age 60+ favor).

▪ **By nearly a 2 to 1 margin, voters agree that carbon pollution permits should be sold to U.S. companies, rather than given away for free.**

When it comes these carbon pollution permits, by 50% to 28%, voters agree that pollution permits should be *sold to U.S. companies with the revenues dedicated to funding new energy-saving technologies, and protecting consumers and displaced workers*, rather than *given to U.S. companies for free, in order to protect shareholders, and not punish American industry*.

▪ **Voters express overwhelming support for five additional measures to reduce carbon emissions in the United States.**

- 94% favor — Requiring manufacturers to make household and commercial appliances, such as refrigerators, electronic equipment, furnaces and air conditioners more energy efficient.
- 92% favor — Providing incentives for people to use solar energy, better insulation, and more efficient appliances.
- 90% favor — Requiring tougher emissions standards for all new cars and trucks, and increasing fuel efficiency standards to 35 miles per gallon within a decade.
- 87% favor — Requiring utilities to expand their use of renewable energy — such as wind and solar power — to 20 percent by year 2020.
- 82% favor — Requiring oil companies to increase the use of bio-fuels such as ethanol, E85 and bio-diesel for cars and trucks.