

TO Interested Parties
FROM Andrew Baumann, Global Strategy Group
DATE September 27, 2016
RE **NEW POLL – Trump’s Anti-Environment Positions a Swing State Vulnerability**

Across the presidential swing states, environmental issues are important to voters, and Donald Trump’s out-of-touch positions on these issues represent a significant vulnerability for the Republican candidate – something he clearly understands based on his desperate and inaccurate attempt to greenwash his own record on climate change in last night’s debate. Voters hold positive opinions of the EPA and want to see policy makers take action on climate change. When they learn more about Trump’s positions here, which stand in opposition to these views, voters shift significantly away from him. With a tight race for the Oval Office, these positions could prove decisive.

KEY SURVEY FINDINGS:

- **Clinton leads by four points across swing states (42% Clinton/38% Trump/9% Johnson/1% Stein).**
- **The Environmental Protection Agency is very popular (61% favorable/26% unfavorable).**
- **Voters in these states side with a pro-climate action argument over an anti-climate counterargument by 22 points.** Unlike Donald Trump, who claims climate change is a hoax, self-identified independents side with the pro-climate argument by 21 points (53% to 32%). Young voters are particularly likely to want action on the climate, with voters under 45 siding with the pro-climate argument by 26 points (62% to 36%), and college-educated women side with the pro-climate argument by a larger margin (68% to 25%) than almost any other non-partisan demographic.

	Human activities like burning fossil fuels and introducing carbon into the atmosphere are causing changes in the weather and climate, and we need to take steps to limit this effect before we make things even worse.	Changes in the weather and climate are due to the kinds of natural fluctuations that the Earth has had for centuries, and not something we should take dramatic and costly steps to try and control.
Total	58	36
Democrats	85	12
Independents	53	32
Republicans	30	62
College Women	68	25
Under 45	62	36

- **Against this backdrop of public opinion, Trump’s positions on abolishing the EPA, refusing to act on climate change, and loyalty to “sweet, beautiful oil” are a real vulnerability.** These positions are virtually disqualifying for younger voters and college-educated women, and are very damaging with independent voters as well.
 - **His support for abolishing the EPA, in particular, is a serious issue to voters,** with 45% saying it raises major doubts about voting for him, including 40% of independents, 57% of voters under 45, and 53% of college-educated women.
 - **Trump’s love for “sweet, beautiful oil” and his support for more oil company tax breaks** is also damaging to the Republican nominee’s chances, raising major doubts with 44% of voters overall and 44% of independents, 53% of voters under 45, and 53% of college-educated women.

- **Trump’s insistence that climate change is a “hoax” created by the Chinese** is similarly problematic, raising major doubts with 42% of voters overall, 52% of those under 45, and 49% of women with a college degree.
- **Once voters hear about these positions, Clinton’s lead expands by 5 points.** After voters hear about Trump’s anti-environment stances, Clinton’s lead expands by 5 points, as Trump loses support and undecideds shift to the Democratic nominee.

ABOUT THIS POLL

Global Strategy Group conducted a live telephone survey of 800 likely November 2016 voters in eight swing states, from September 15th to 19th, 2016. The survey included 100 interviews in each: Colorado, Florida, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The results of this survey have a margin of error of +/-3.5%. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic and demographic divisions of the expected electorate are properly represented based on historical turnout.

APPENDIX:

Below are the three messages from the poll which are cited above:

Donald Trump has vowed to get rid of the Environmental Protection Agency, which would give polluters free rein to poison our air and water for the sake of their own profits. Trump would allow big energy companies to spew unlimited amounts of toxic pollution like mercury and sulfur dioxide, leading to higher rates of asthma, heart disease, and cancer.

Donald Trump announced his energy plan in a room full of oil company executives, where he said he loved, quote, “sweet, beautiful oil.” Trump’s plan puts polluter profits ahead of our health. He’d give oil companies more tax breaks even though they have made hundreds of billions of dollars polluting our environment.

Our coasts are flooding and Department of Defense, NASA, and 97 percent of scientists agree that climate change is happening and is a threat to our country. Yet Donald Trump denies climate change exists, saying that it is, quote, “a hoax,” created by the Chinese.