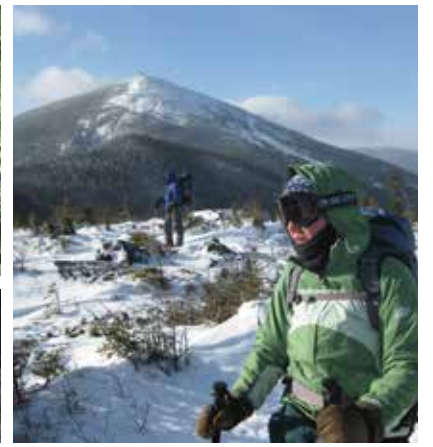





**Natural Resources
 Council of Maine**
 Fall 2016



Special Edition: MAINE ENVIRONMENT

Survey of Maine Voters on Environmental Issues

Mainers Strongly Support New National Monument, Solar Power, Land for Maine's Future, and Maine's Environment

Protecting the environment and developing clean energy—particularly solar power—are high priorities for an overwhelming, bipartisan majority of Maine voters, according to a comprehensive survey by DRI-Critical Insights. The poll, commissioned by NRCM, demonstrates that Maine people value our clean environment and categorically reject the false claim that we need to weaken environmental laws to create jobs. The poll shows that Mainers firmly believe that environmental protection goes hand-in-hand with a strong economy.

Of particular note, the survey shows that 72% of Maine voters support the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, compared with only 22% opposed. This is the first detailed survey of Maine voters to be completed and released since the National Monument was established on August 24, 2016. The survey shows that voters believe that the monument will provide positive economic benefits to the Katahdin region by increasing tourism and creating jobs. Also noteworthy is that strong support comes from men and women; Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, and those who consider themselves conservatives and those who consider themselves liberals. Overwhelming support also extends to all parts of the state. Voters in Congressional District 1 support the National Monument 79% to 21%, and voters in Congressional District 2 support the National Monument 66% to 34%.

"Maine people are giving a big 'thumbs up' to the new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument," said NRCM Advocacy Director Pete Didisheim. "They see it as a magnet for tourism and job creation in a part of the state that desperately needs economic development."

On other issues, the poll found that a large, bipartisan majority of Maine voters support funding the Land for Maine's Future program (80% support to 15% opposed), oppose weakening Maine's mining regulations (75% oppose to 18% support), and believe Maine's environmental laws are working and should not be weakened (70% to 26%).

Nearly 60% of Mainers believe that harmful impacts of global warming are already underway, and about the same number (61%) want solar energy to be a higher priority for the Legislature.

In late October 2016, NRCM mailed the survey results to every candidate who was running for legislative office; we believe every candidate should understand the position of Maine voters on these key issues. To help make the point about how important Maine's clean air, waters, wildlife, and healthy forests are to our economy, we also released the survey during a news conference that was attended by speakers who have jobs tightly connected to Maine's environment and clean energy industry.

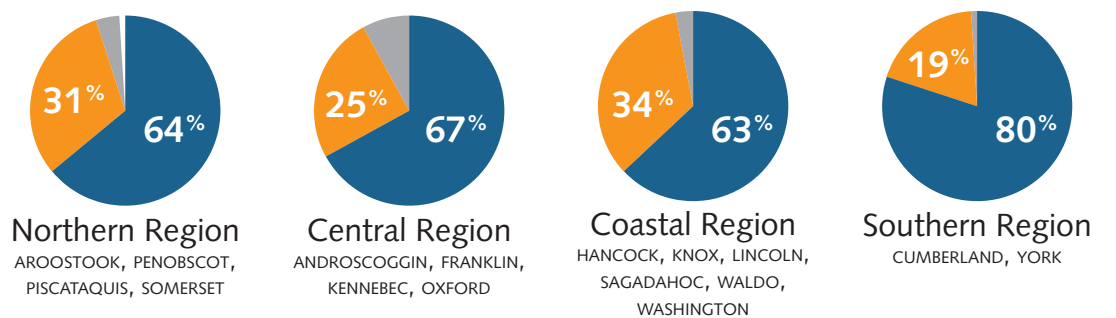
We thank all of our members and supporters who are helping us protect the nature of Maine. For full poll results, visit www.nrcm.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

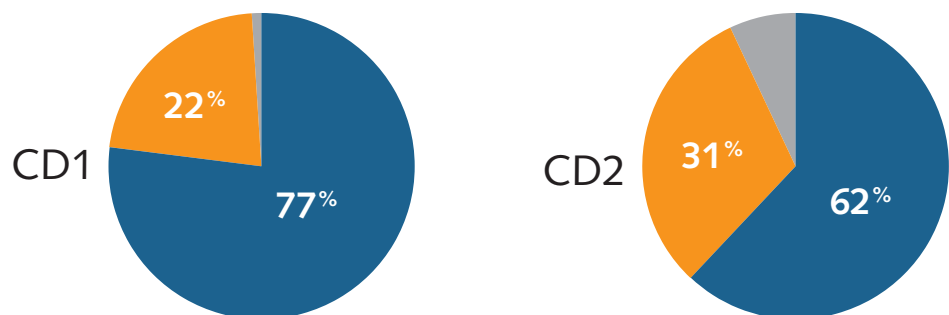
Majority Believe Environmental Laws Work and Should Not Be Weakened



BREAKDOWN BY REGION



BREAKDOWN BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (CD)



ENVIRONMENTAL ROLLBACKS STRONGLY OPPOSED

Seventy-nine percent would be very or somewhat concerned to learn that their state legislator voted to weaken laws that protect Maine's clean air, clean water, and environment. Just 19% would be only a little or not at all concerned.



The survey was conducted by DRI/Critical Insights between September 23 and October 5, 2016. Data was gathered from 405 interviews with a statistically representative cross-section of self-reported registered voters, via both landline and mobile phone. The results have an associated margin of error of ±4.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Percentage figures rounded to nearest whole number.

OUR NEW NATIONAL MONUMENT



LINDSAY DOWNING WITH HUSBAND MIKE AND DOG JAKE

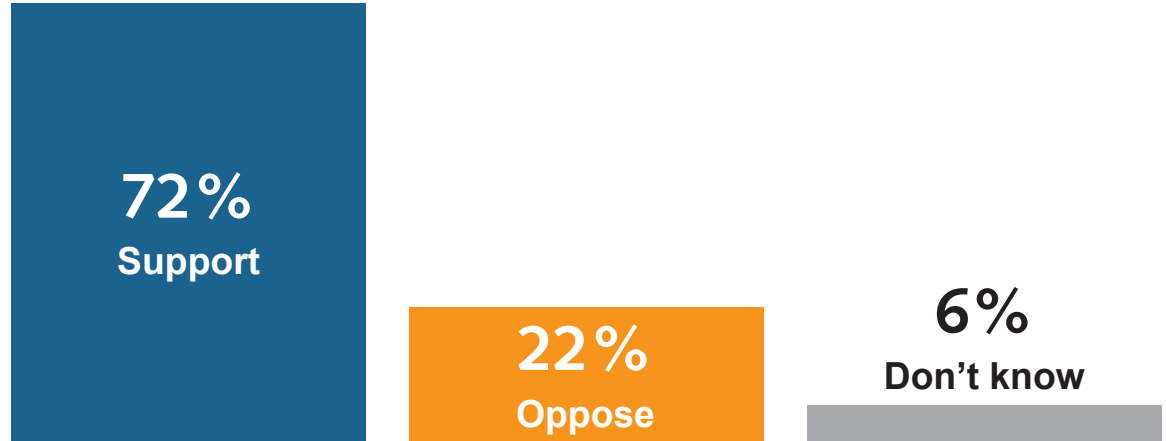
"I grew up in the Katahdin region and attended Katahdin High School. Like so many of my friends, I left the state when I graduated. I left for college and to gain work experience, but I was able to return last year with my husband to take over our family business—Mt. Chase Lodge. We're located near the new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, and I can tell you that we already are seeing a big boost in business. People are coming from around the country to visit the National Monument, proving that it will provide positive benefits to businesses in our region. It already is. We've been so busy that it's been hard to find time to prepare for winter. We're already thinking about making investments to expand and improve Mt. Chase Lodge in the future."

—Lindsay Downing
(Mt. Chase Lodge, Patten)

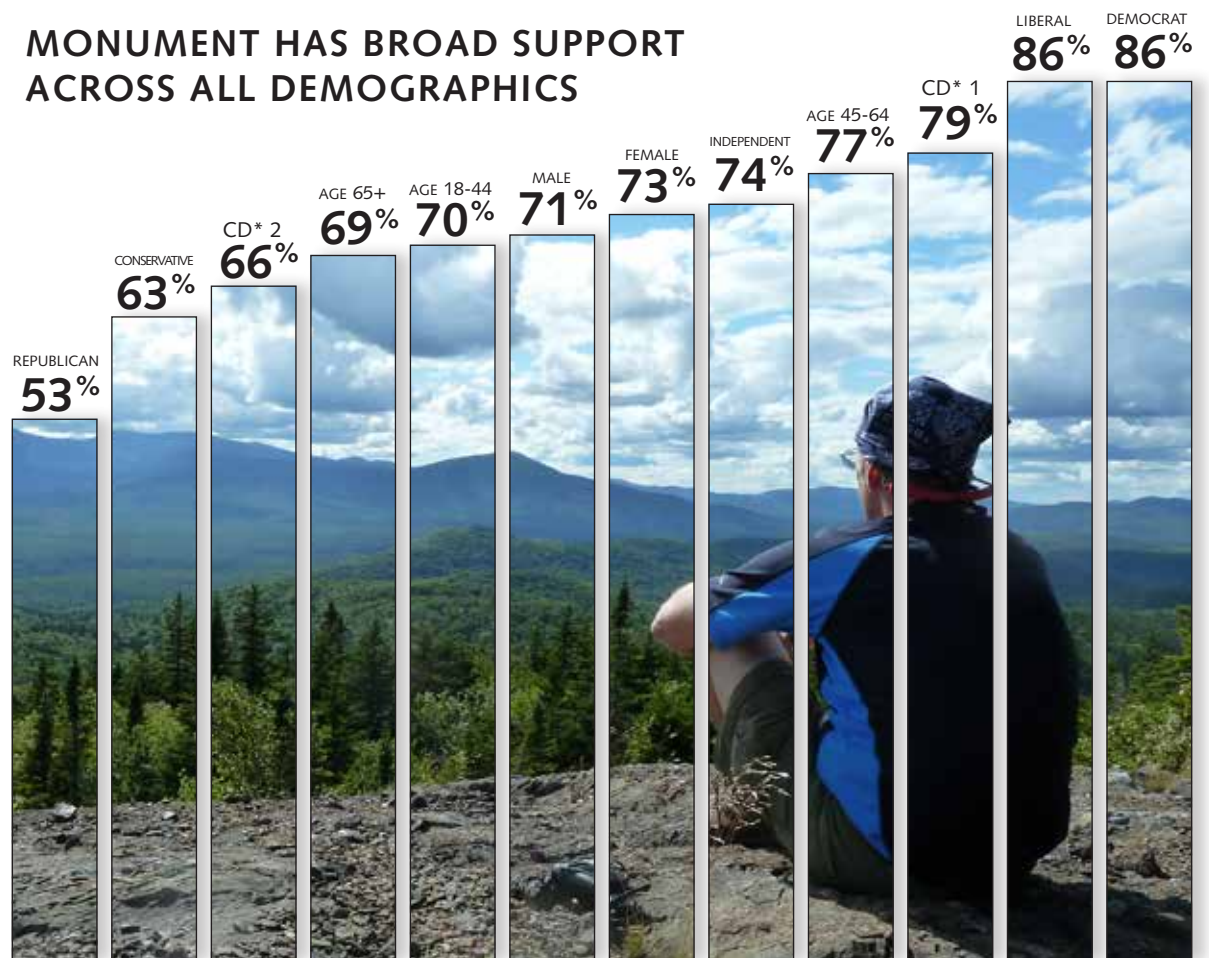
Voters Strongly Support New National Monument

Earlier this year, 87,500 acres of land near Baxter State Park was donated to the American public and designated as Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. This land will be managed similar to a national park, for hiking, camping, paddling, fishing, and other recreational purposes, with some of the land open for hunting and snowmobiling.

More than 50% of Mainers in every demographic subgroup polled support the National Monument. In addition, 67% believe the National Monument will increase tourism in nearby communities and 58% believe it will increase jobs.



MONUMENT HAS BROAD SUPPORT ACROSS ALL DEMOGRAPHICS



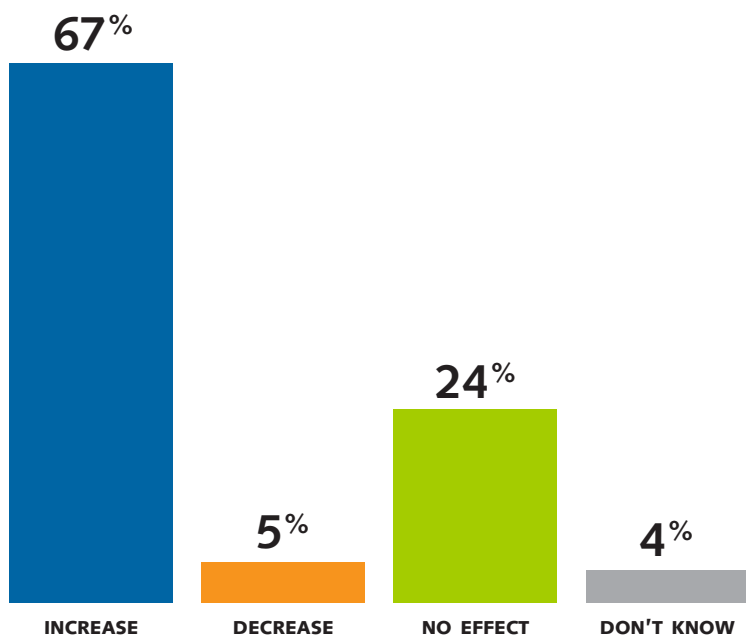
* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Most Voters Believe National Monument Will Increase Tourism and Create Jobs



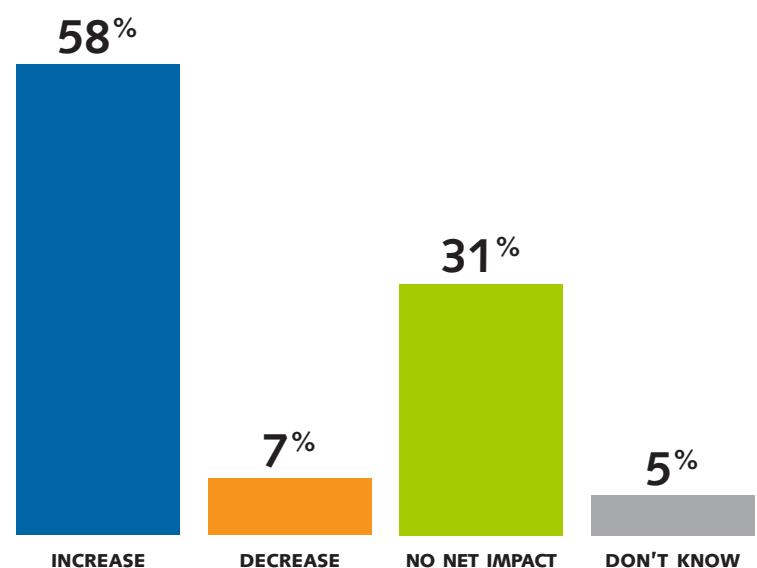
TOURISM

Do you believe the National Monument will increase, decrease, or have no effect on tourism in nearby communities?



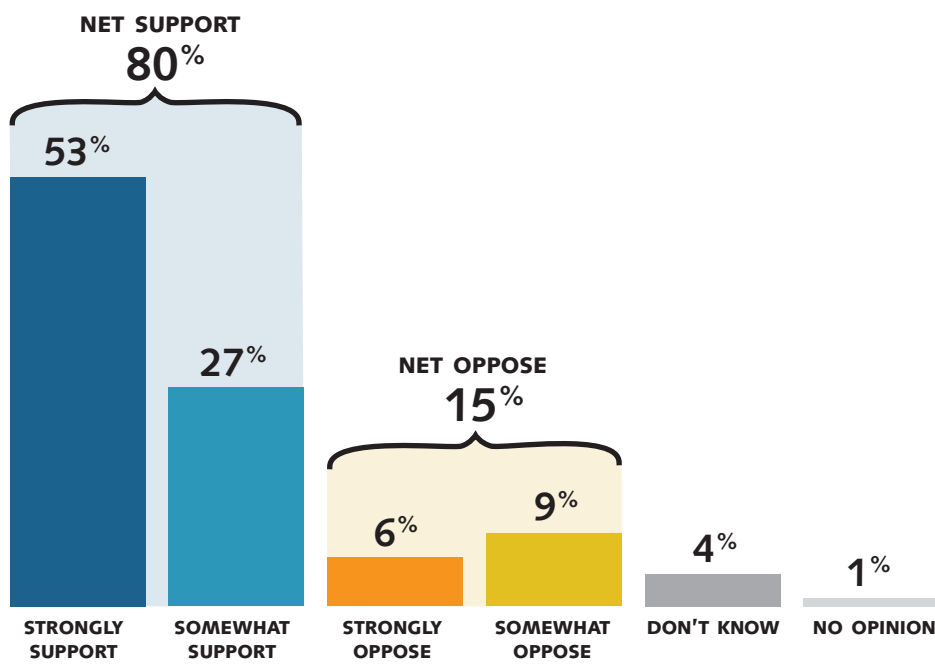
JOB

Do you believe the National Monument will result in an increase in jobs, decrease in jobs, or have no net impact on the number of jobs in nearby communities?



LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE

Eighty percent support funding Land for Maine's Future (LMF) next year, while only 15% oppose. Support for LMF exceeds 70% among men and women; Democrats, Independents, and Republicans; and in both of Maine's Congressional Districts.



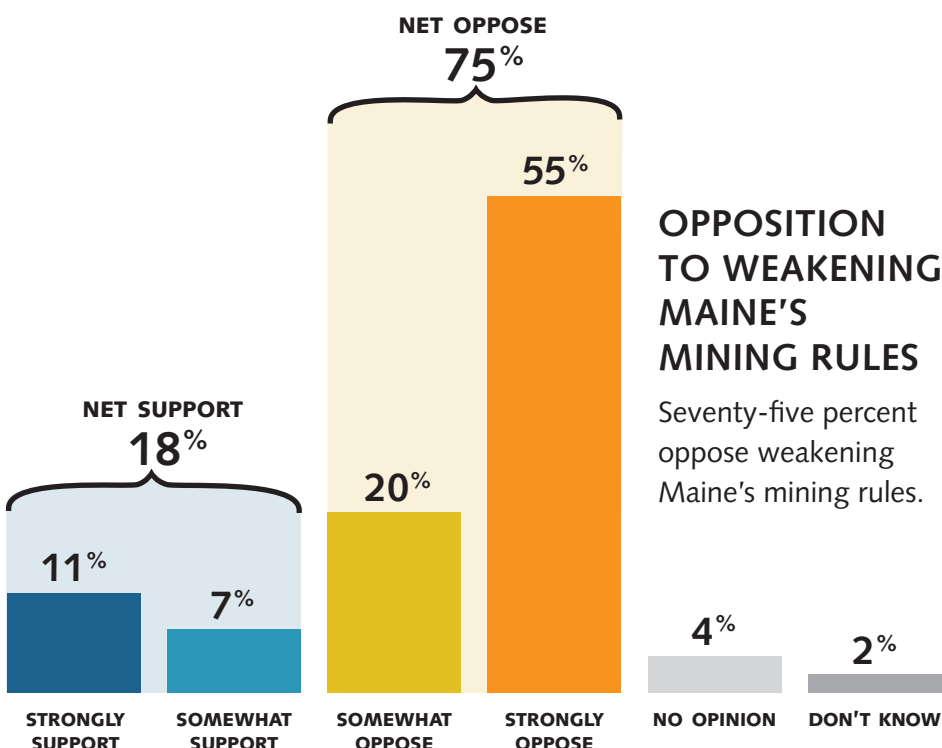
MINING REGULATIONS



"I have taught fly-fishing professionally for more than 30 years. I'm a Registered Maine Fishing Guide, the author of two fly-casting books, and I've trained fishing guides and fly-casting instructors on four continents. We have a high percentage of the best trout habitat left in the eastern United States and we are a destination for world-class fly-fishing experiences. We should be

doing all we can to protect our freshwater fisheries, and not subject them to threats such as open-pit metal mining. I've fished three rivers in the American West where mine wastes wrecked what were once spectacular and valuable sport fisheries. It would be a tragedy if that happened here in Maine, so I'm pleased to see that such a high percentage of Maine people oppose weak mining regulations."

—Macauley Lord (Professional Fly-Fishing Instructor and Registered Maine Fishing Guide)



OPPOSITION TO WEAKENING MAINE'S MINING RULES

Seventy-five percent oppose weakening Maine's mining rules.

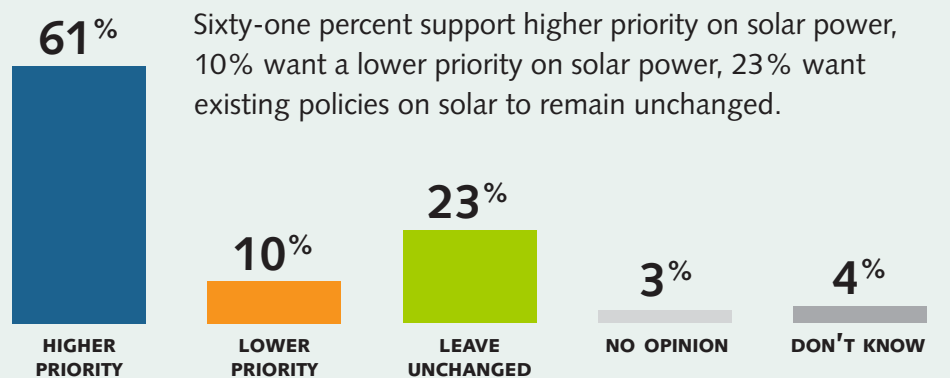
SOLAR ENERGY



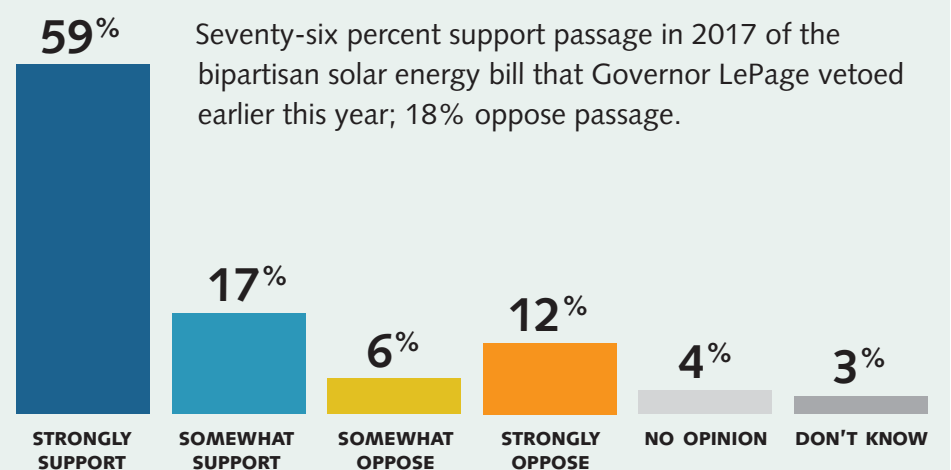
"I grew up on a 3rd generation dairy farm in Albion and left the state after college to gain greater work experience and pay off my student loans. But a good job in Maine's solar industry made it possible for me to come back, so I can someday raise a family here. Solar jobs cannot be outsourced. They represent an economic growth opportunity for the state. It's not surprising to see that Mainers think solar energy

should be a higher priority. Maine's solar industry is expanding, despite the lack of policies to accelerate solar installations. Other states have better policies and are creating more solar jobs than we are. I know we can do better, and Maine people seem to feel that way as well."—Holly Noyes (ReVision Energy)

VOTERS WANT SOLAR POWER TO BE A HIGHER PRIORITY FOR MAINE LEGISLATORS

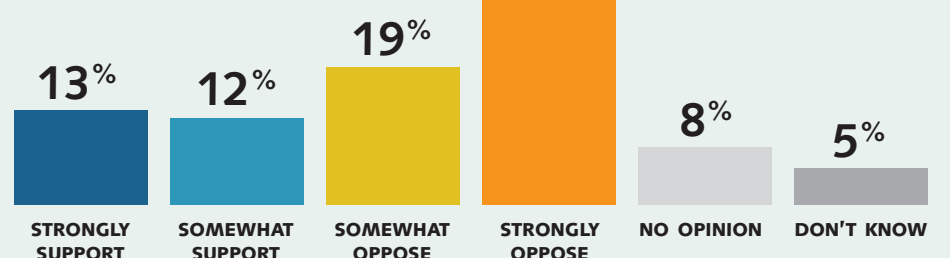


STRONG SUPPORT TO PASS BIPARTISAN SOLAR BILL NEXT YEAR



MOST VOTERS OPPOSE ROLLBACK OF "NET METERING" FOR SOLAR ENERGY

Decision-makers in Augusta currently are considering a proposal to phase out a long-standing policy known as "net metering." Sixty-two percent oppose phasing out Maine's "net metering" policy, as Maine's Public Utilities Commission has proposed. This would make solar energy less affordable for Maine residents and businesses. Only 25% support the rollback.



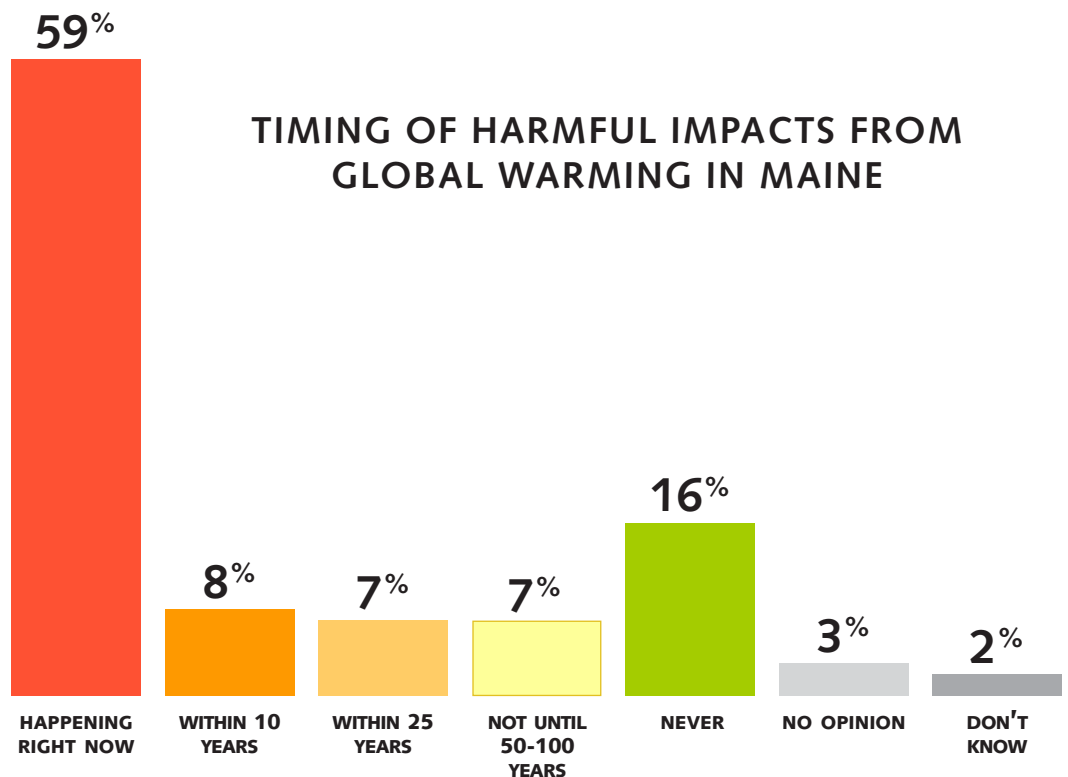
CLIMATE CHANGE AND MAINE'S FISHING INDUSTRY



"I am a lobsterman out of Friendship, Maine, with 30 years fishing experience. It's clear to me that our ocean is warming and becoming more acidic. We're now seeing how species react to these changes in their molt and life cycles, migrations, and abundance. We see the increase of severe weather events, algae blooms, fish die-offs, and closures due to toxins. These issues affect fishermen by threatening our livelihoods, and reinforce the need for us to share our heritage of conservation. We must reach beyond our industry, to friends, neighbors, and decision-makers to help bring about policies to help us maintain the healthy ocean we depend upon. From carbon policy to ocean debris, from remediating ocean acidification to nutrient loading, all have become part of the realities and thoughts of a Maine fisherman."—Richard Nelson (Lobsterman, member Maine Ocean Acidification Commission and Maine Regional Ocean Planning Advisory Group)

Most Mainers Believe Impacts of Global Warming Are Already Happening

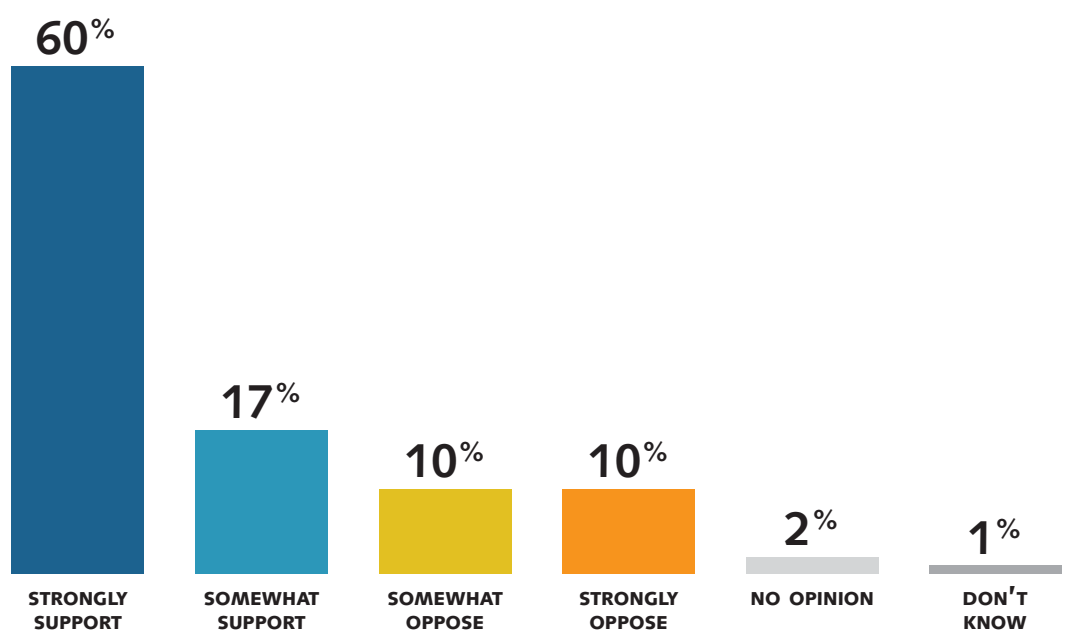
Fifty-nine percent of respondents believe harmful global warming impacts are happening now in Maine. An additional 8% think impacts will occur "within 10 years," 7% said "within 25 years" and 7% said "not until 50 to 100 years." Only 16% believe that global warming will "never" have harmful impacts in Maine.



STRONG SUPPORT FOR LIMITING CLIMATE-CHANGING POLLUTION FROM POWER PLANTS

Maine is currently part of a cooperative program among nine Northeast states that sets a limit on the amount of climate-changing pollution that power plants can release, and provides money to help homes and businesses in Maine become more energy-efficient. The states are now deciding on the pollution limit for future years. There is a proposal to require power plants in the region to decrease the amount of carbon pollution they release by five percent every year, beginning in 2020. Most companies have been decreasing pollution by this amount already, and under this proposal, they would be required to continue doing so.

Seventy-seven percent of respondents support this proposal for pollution limits in future years; 20% oppose it.



Maine Environment

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