



Natural Resources Council of Maine ~ Maine Voter Issues Poll ~

October 2016

Market Research, Public Opinion Polling

172 Commercial Street, 2nd Floor ♦ Portland, Maine 04101

www.criticalinsights.com

About the Survey

Background

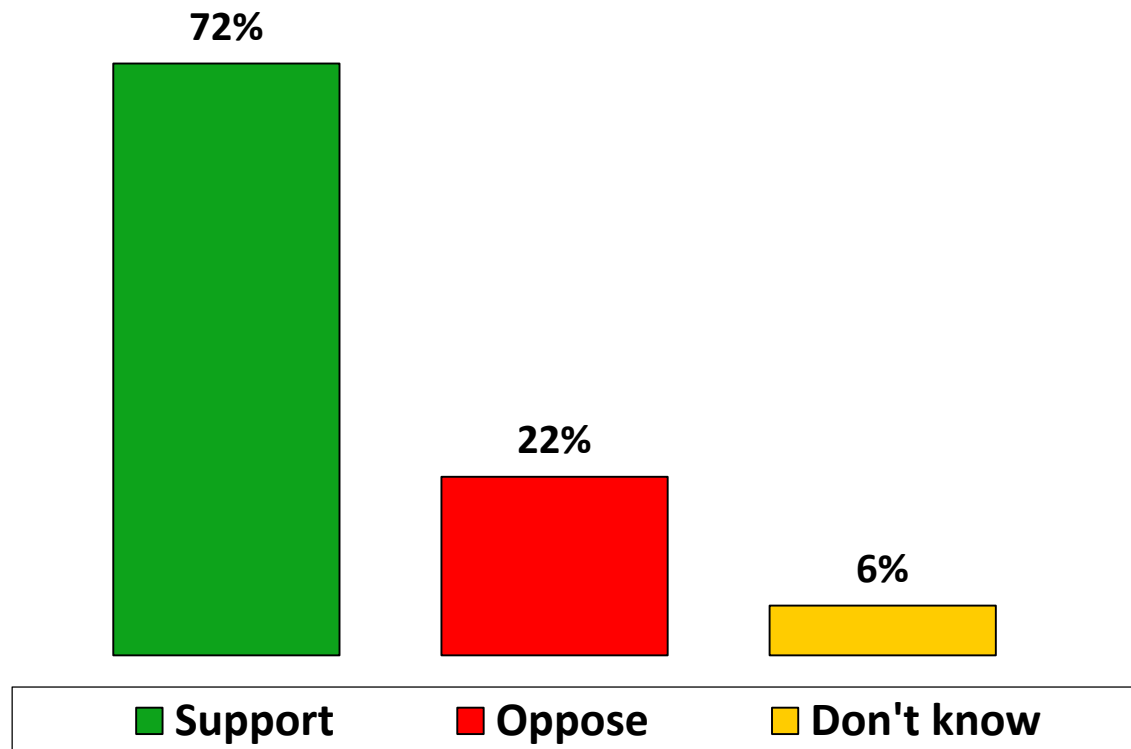
- In the Fall of 2016, the Natural Resources Council of Maine (“NRCM”) contracted with Critical Insights (Portland, Maine) to conduct an exploratory issues poll of Maine voters.
- The intent of the effort was to document the attitudes and beliefs of a cross-section of voters on a range of issues of interest to NRCM.

Data Collection Overview

- Critical Insights completed a total of 405 random telephone interviews across the state between September 23rd and October 5th of 2016.
 - All interviews were conducted with self-reported registered voters; final data was statistically weighted according to relevant demographic and voter registration figures to reflect the voter base in Maine.
 - Interviews were conducted via both landline and mobile phone.
 - With a sample of 405 interviews across Maine, results presented here have an associated margin of error of ± 4.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.
 - On average, the entire survey instrument – including demographic items employed in sample balancing and weighting – was 10 minutes in administrative length.

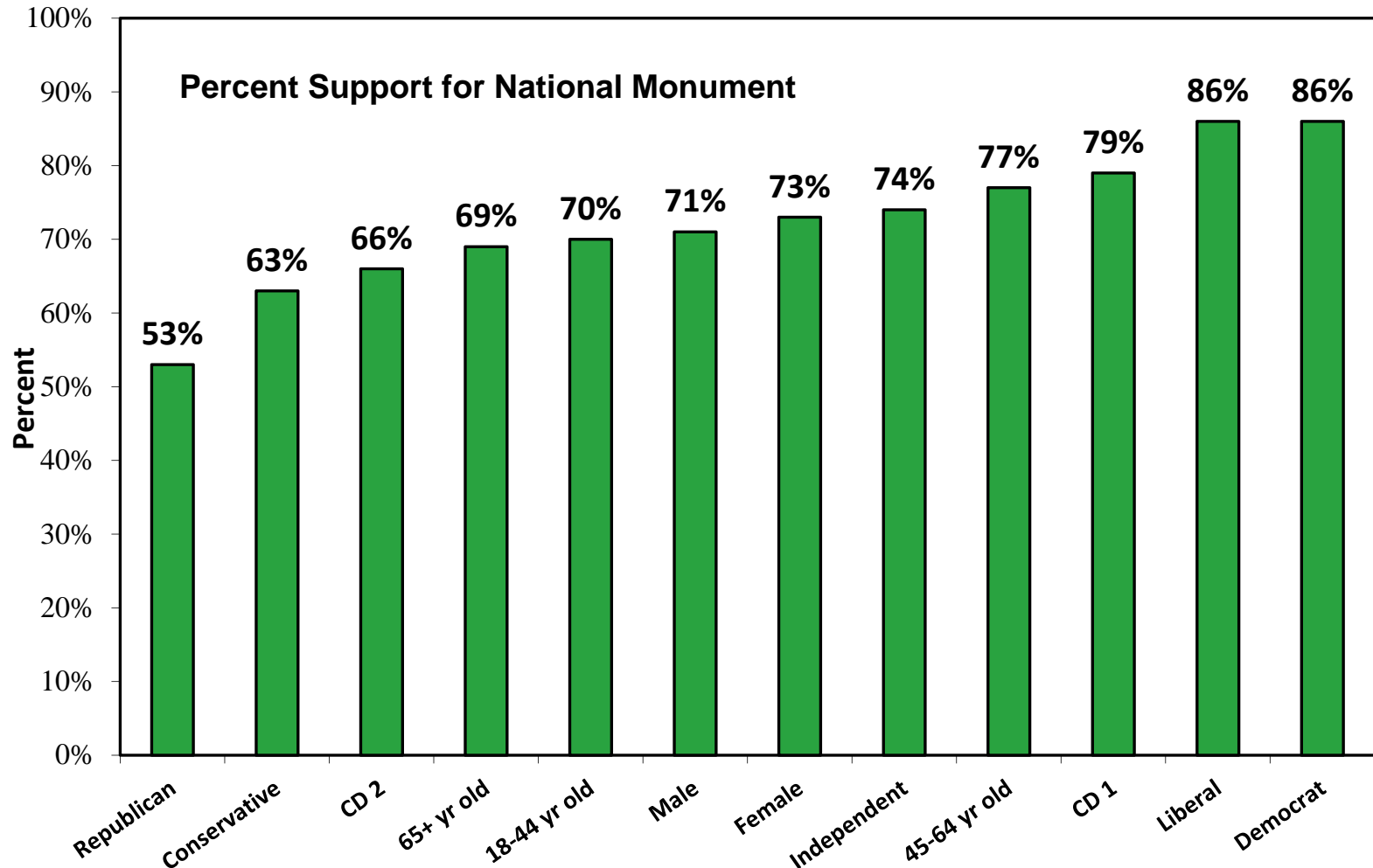
Voters Strongly Support New National Monument

Last month, 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. Do you support or oppose the establishment of the National Monument with guaranteed public access forever?



Majority Support for National Monument in All Subgroups

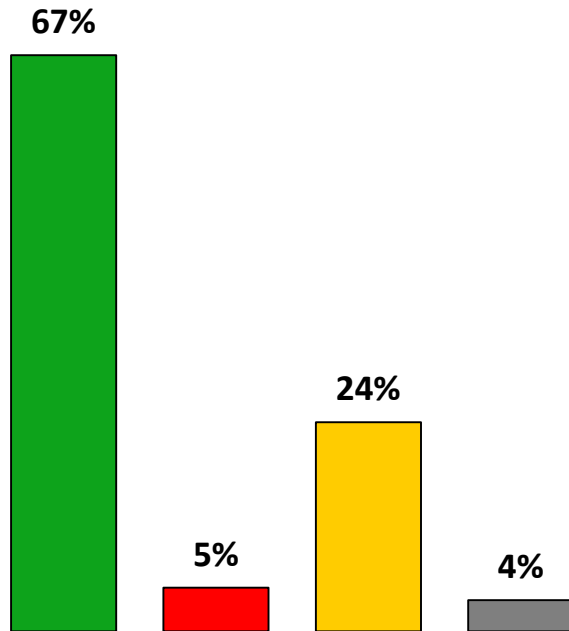
Do you support or oppose the establishment of the National Monument with guaranteed public access forever?



Most Voters Believe National Monument will Increase Tourism and Create Jobs

Tourism

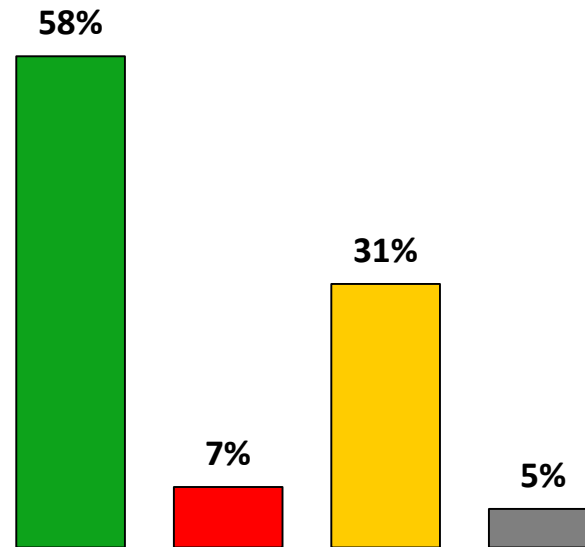
Do you believe that the National Monument will increase, decrease, or have no effect on tourism in nearby communities?



■ Increase ■ Decrease ■ Have no effect ■ Don't know

Jobs

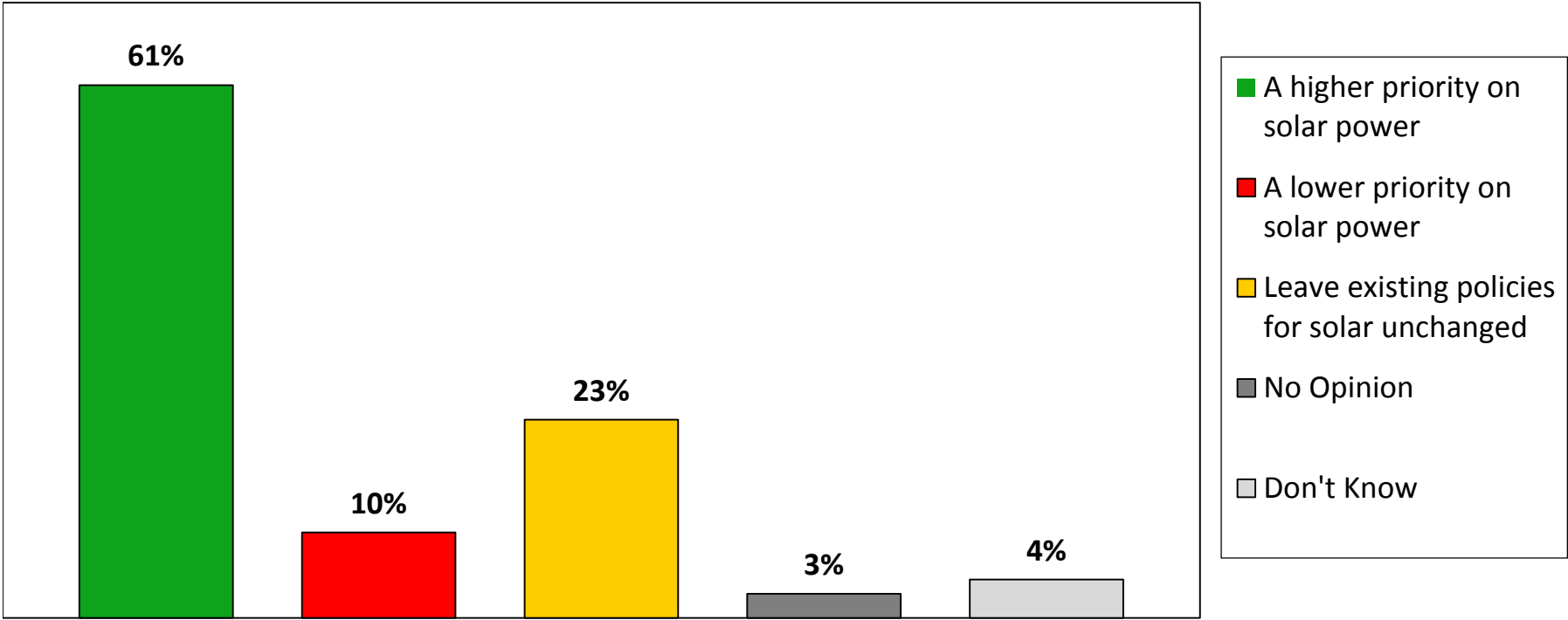
Do you believe that the National Monument will result in an increase in jobs, decrease in jobs, or have no net impact on the number of jobs in nearby communities?



■ Increase ■ Decrease ■ Have no net impact ■ Don't know

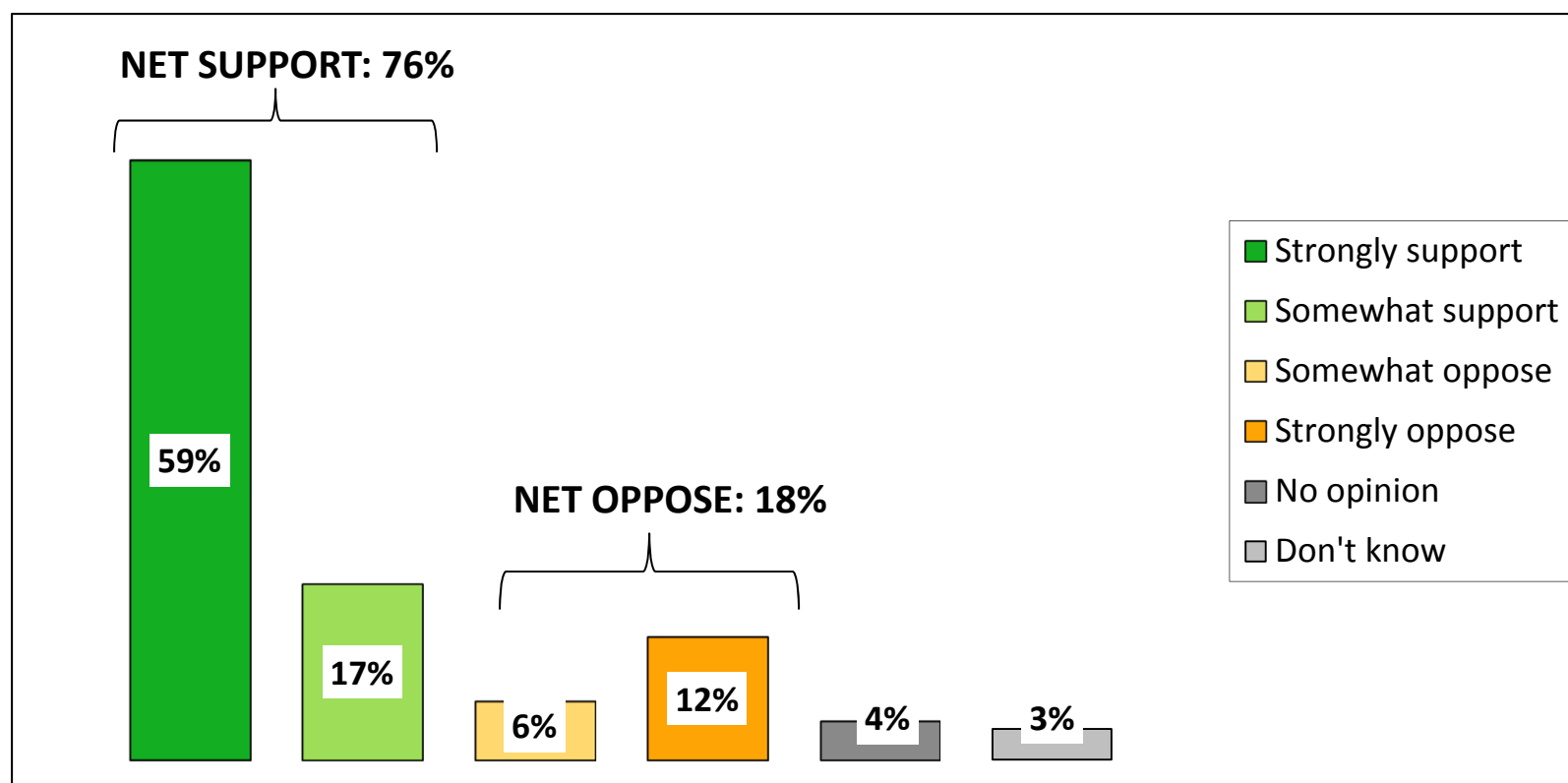
Voters Want Solar Power to be a Higher Priority for Maine Legislators

Maine people and businesses use electricity generated from fossil fuels, nuclear power, and renewable energy. One energy source that has received attention recently is solar power. Do you believe Maine legislators should pass laws that place a higher priority on solar power, a lower priority on solar power, or leave existing policies for solar unchanged?



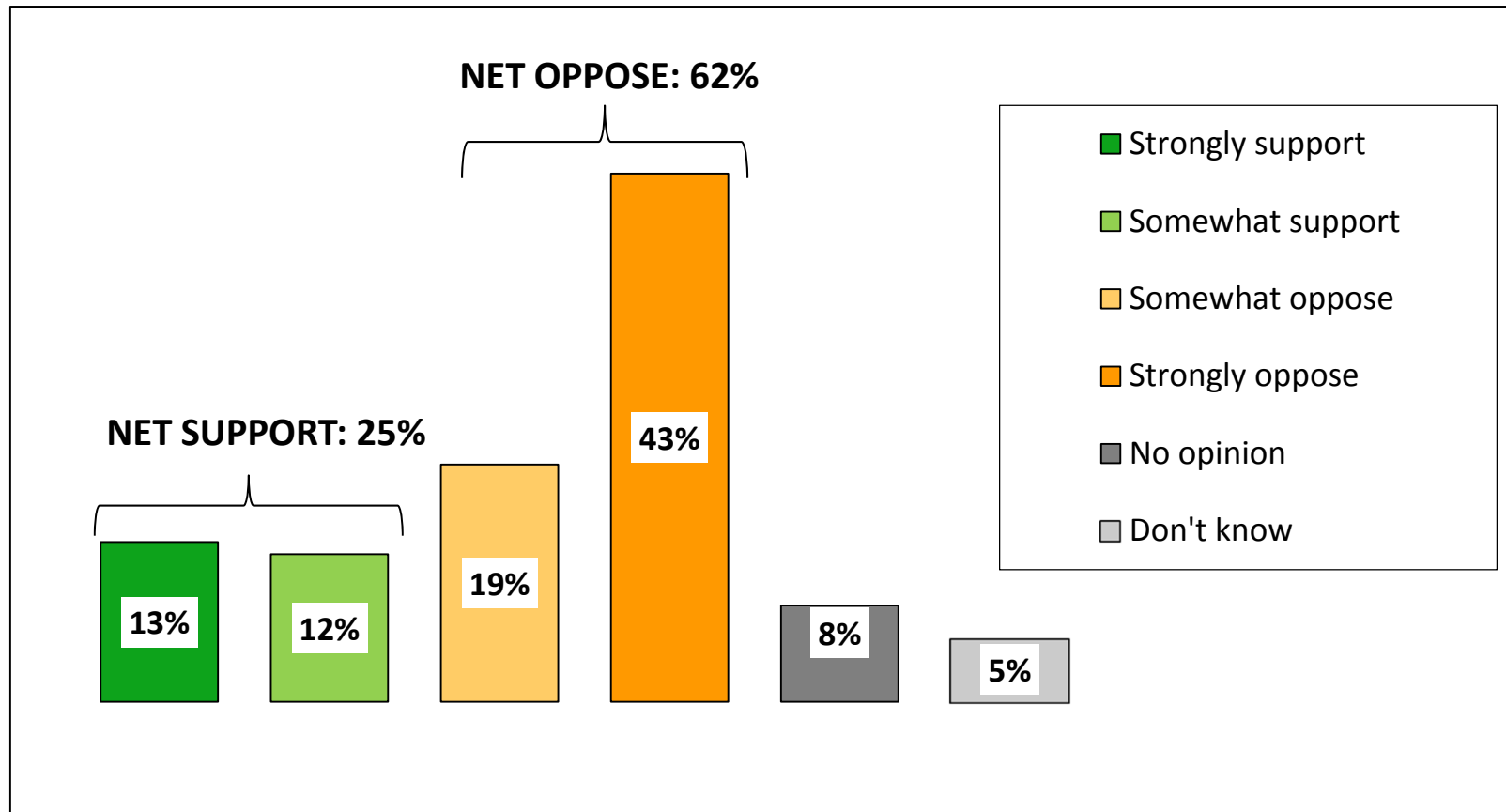
Strong Support for Bipartisan Solar Energy Bill

Earlier this year, Maine lawmakers came very close to passing a bi-partisan solar energy bill that was supported by a broad coalition of solar energy companies, electric utilities, environmental groups, town officials, and Maine's official ratepayer advocate. The governor vetoed the bill and an effort by lawmakers to overturn the veto fell just a couple votes short. Maine lawmakers are expected to seek passage of a similar bill next year to increase solar power in Maine. Would you support or oppose passage of such a bill to increase solar energy next year?



Most Voters Oppose Rollback of Net Metering

Decision-makers in Augusta currently are considering a proposal to phase out a long-standing policy known as “net metering.” The proposed phase-out of net metering would make solar energy less affordable for Maine homeowners and businesses. Please tell me whether you support or oppose this proposal to weaken Maine’s existing net metering solar energy policy.

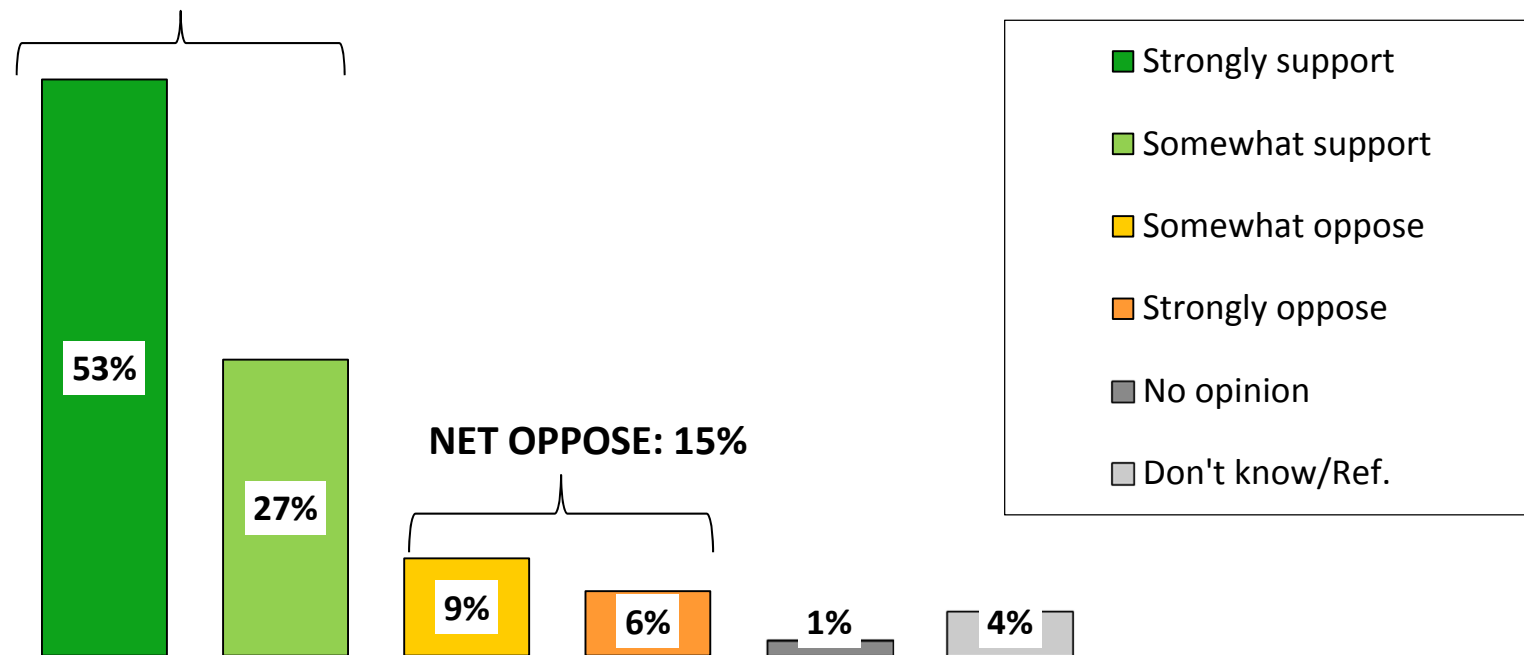


Overwhelming Support for Land for Maine's Future

I'm going to read you some policy proposals that will be considered next year by Maine legislators. Please tell me whether you support or oppose that proposal.

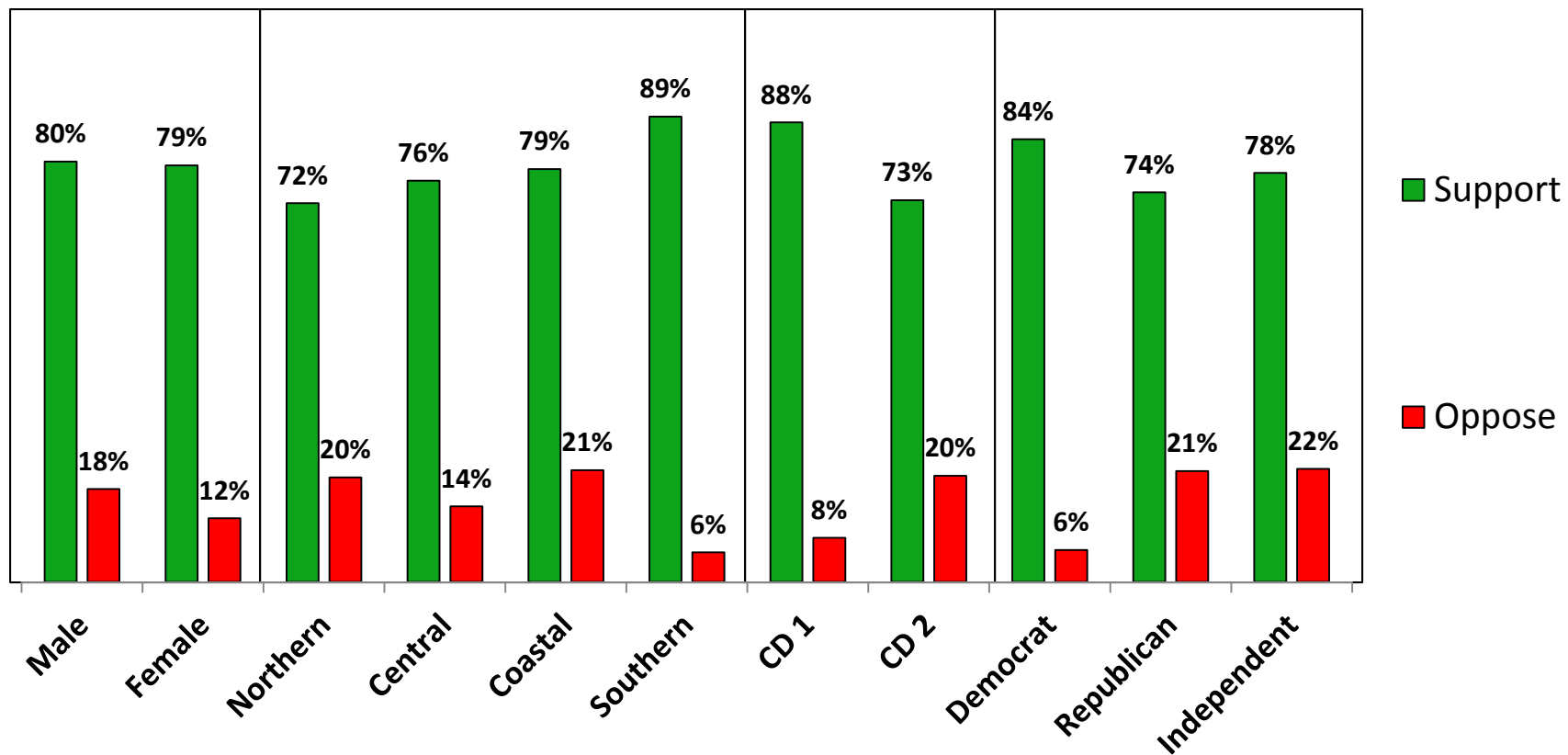
- Provide funding for the Land for Maine's Future program, which conserves land for public access and traditional uses, and preserves farmland and working waterfronts.

NET SUPPORT: 80%



Support for Land for Maine's Future Across all Voter Subgroups

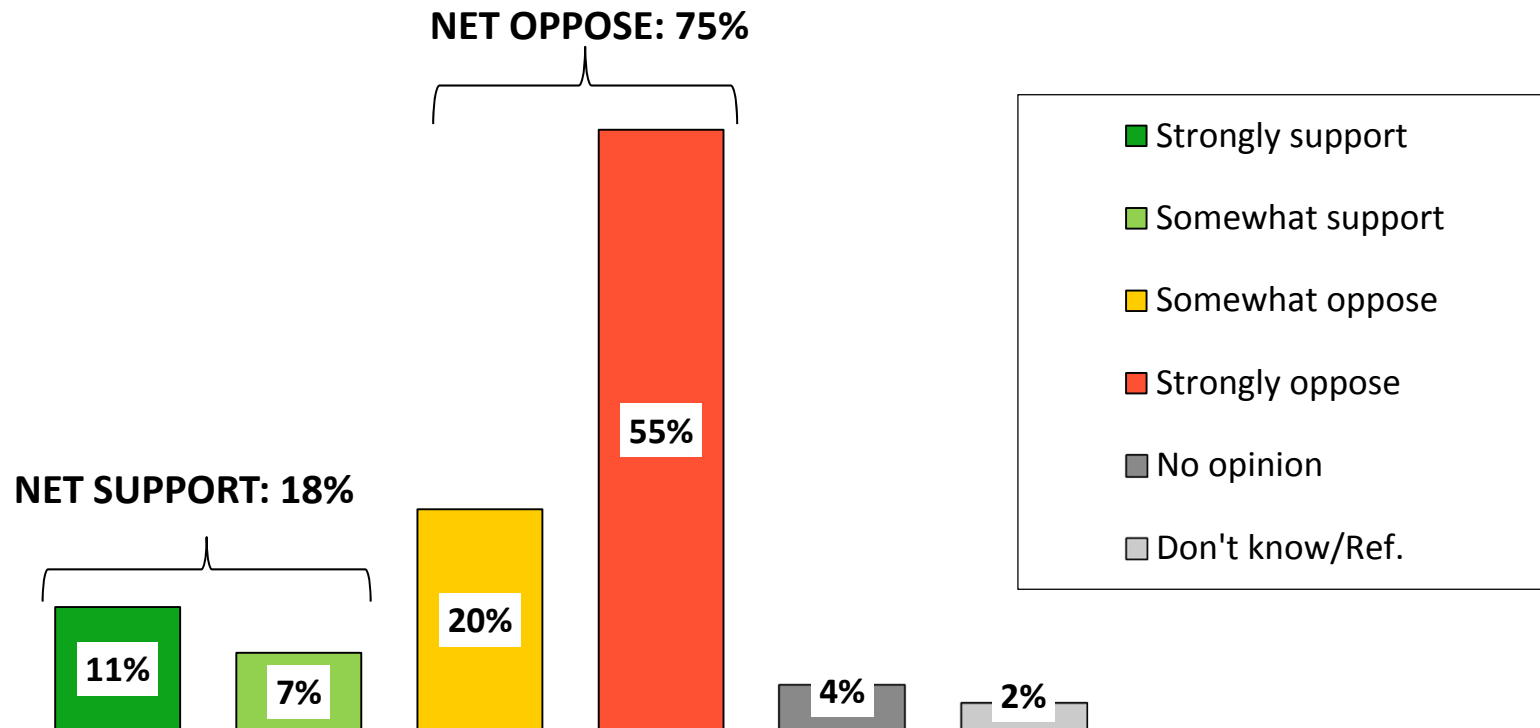
Provide funding for the Land for Maine's Future program, which conserves land for public access and traditional uses, and preserves farmland and working waterfronts



Strong Opposition to Weak Mining Regulations

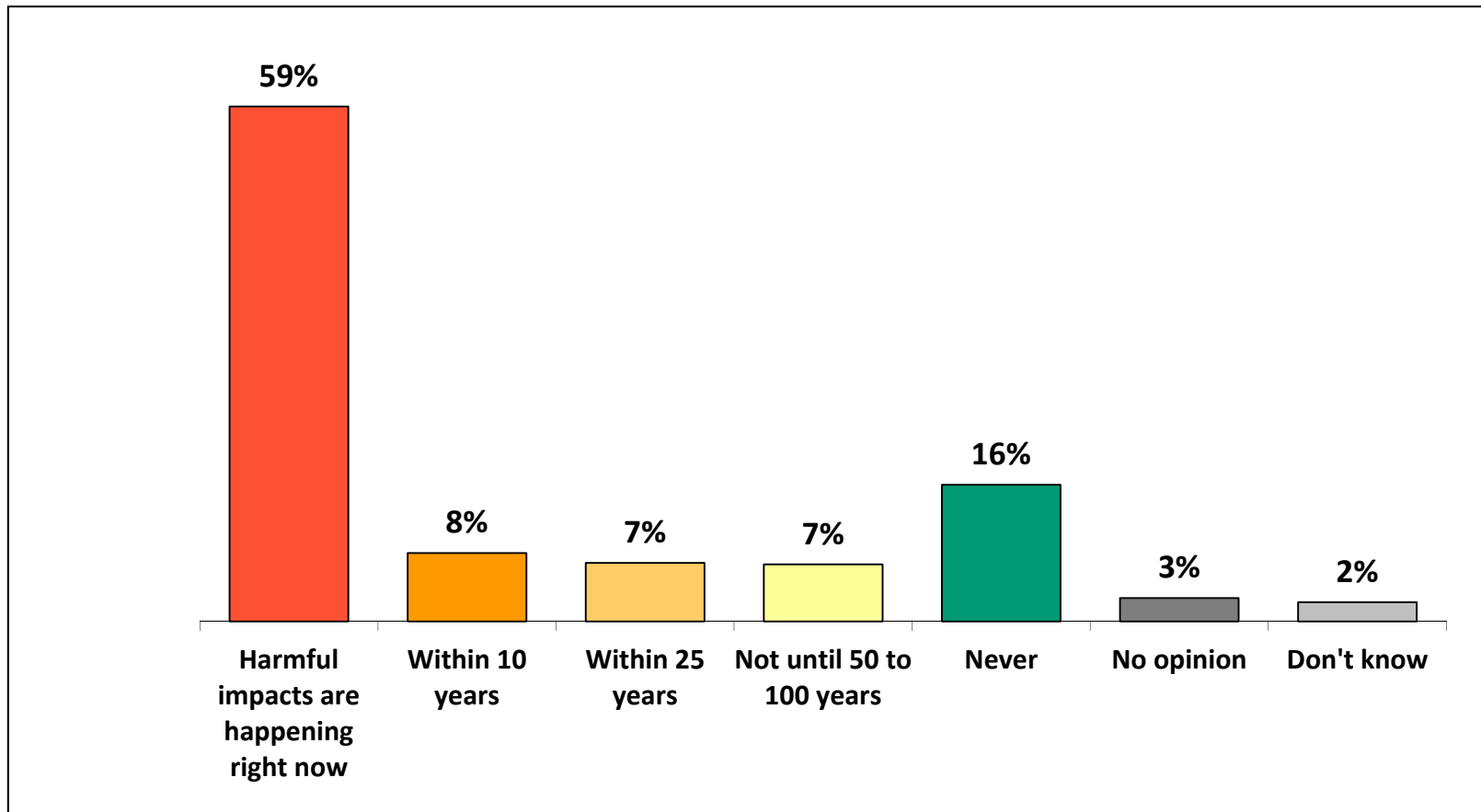
I'm going to read you some policy proposals that will be considered next year by Maine legislators. Please tell me whether you support or oppose that proposal.

- Change Maine's mining regulations to make it easier for mining companies to build open-pit mines, but with the likely result that water pollution would increase and taxpayers would end up covering cleanup costs.



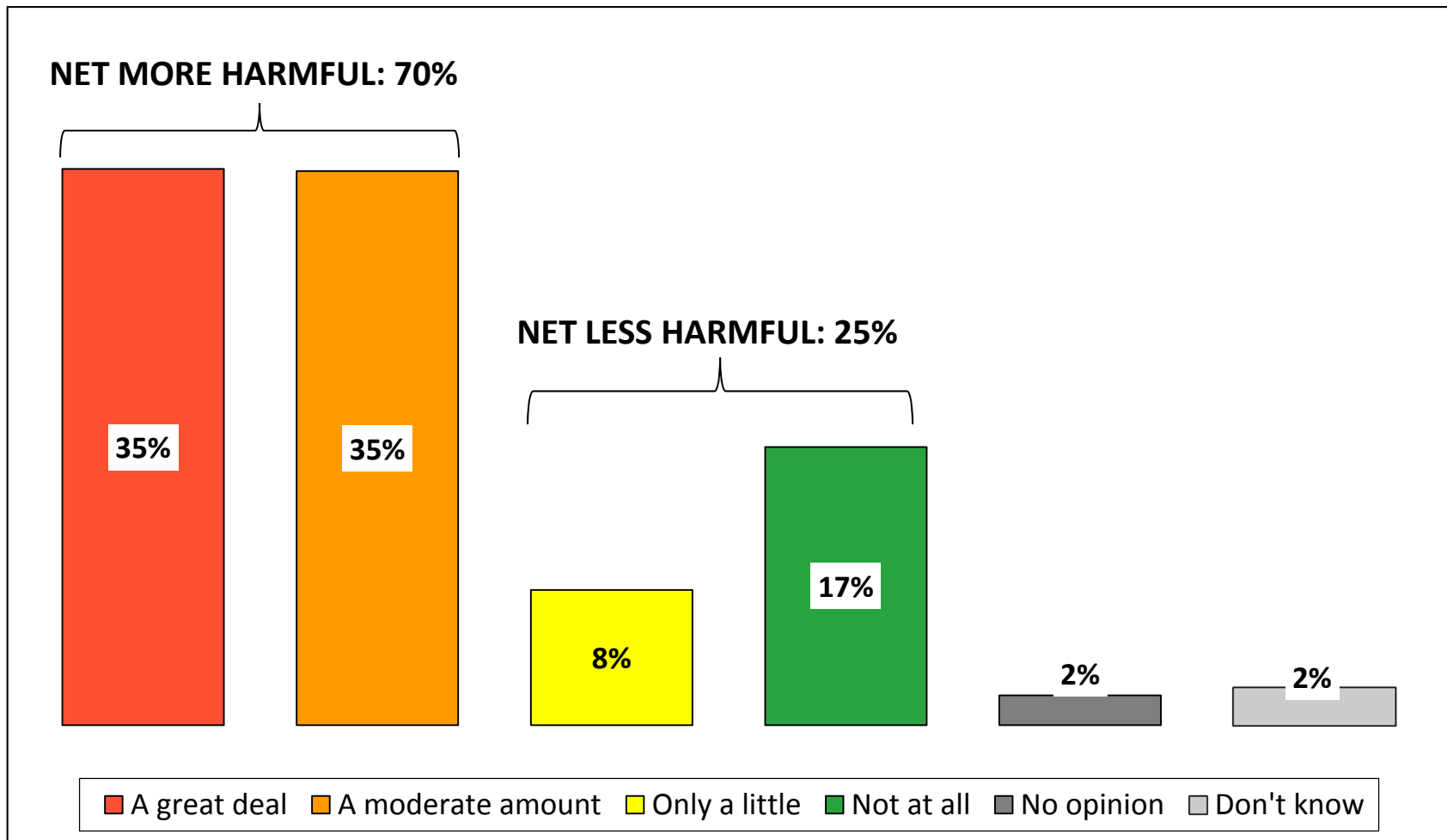
Most Mainers Believe Impacts of Global Warming Are Already Happening

Recently, you may have noticed that there has been news coverage about the Earth's warming climate. Global warming refers to the fact that the world's average temperature has been increasing over the past 150 years, changing the earth's climate. Please tell me when you think global warming will start to have harmful impacts in Maine. Would you say: Harmful impacts are happening right now, Within 10 years, Within 25 years, Not until 50 to 100 years, or Never?



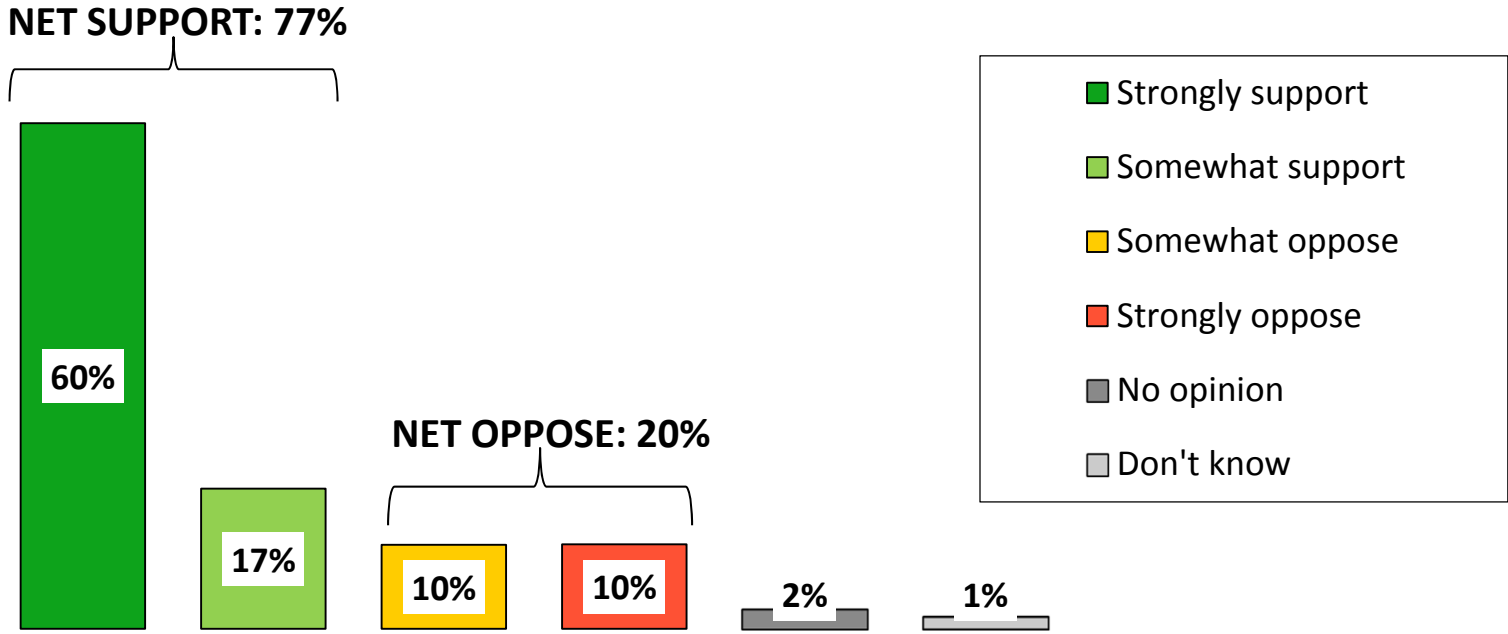
Voters Believe Global Warming Will Harm Mainers

Thinking about how serious the effects of global warming will be, how much do you think global warming will harm people in Maine? Would you say a great deal, a moderate amount, only a little, or not at all?



Strong Support for Limiting Climate-Changing Pollution from Power Plants

Maine currently is part of a cooperative program among nine Northeast states that sets a limit on the amount of climate-changing carbon 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. Would you support or oppose this proposal for pollution limits in future years?



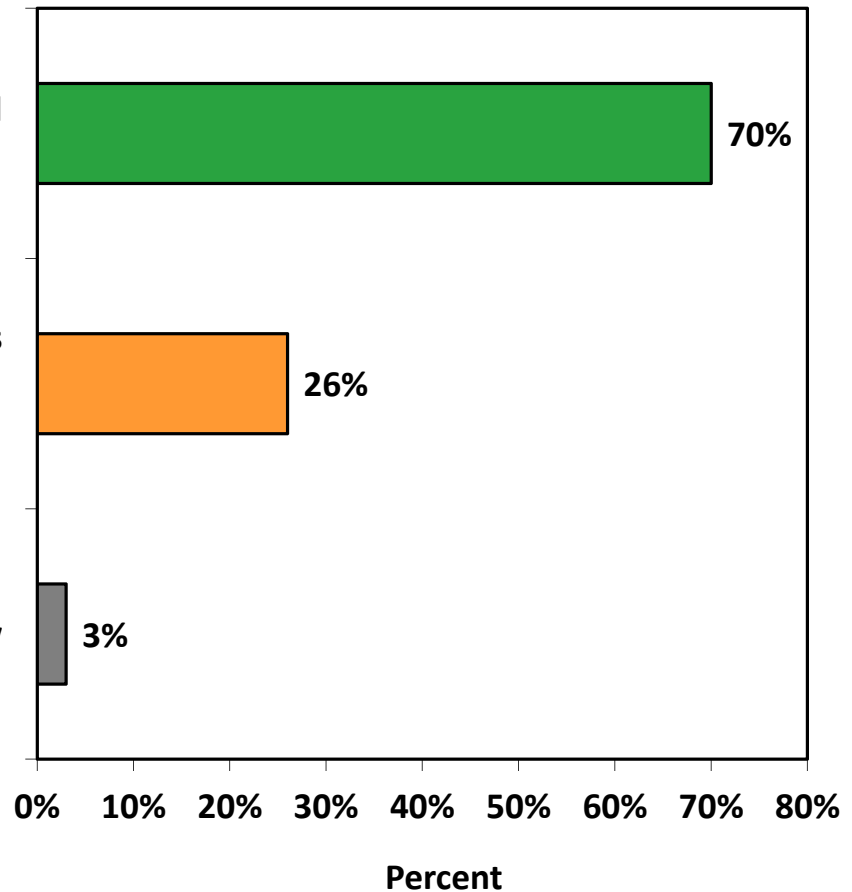
Majority Believes that Environmental Laws Have Worked and Should Not Be Loosened Up

Which of the following statements comes closest to your own view?

Maine's environmental laws and regulations have worked. They protect our environment and public health. We can have a clean environment while also achieving a stronger economy.

Maine's environmental laws and regulations have gone too far. They are hurting Maine's economy so we should loosen them up.

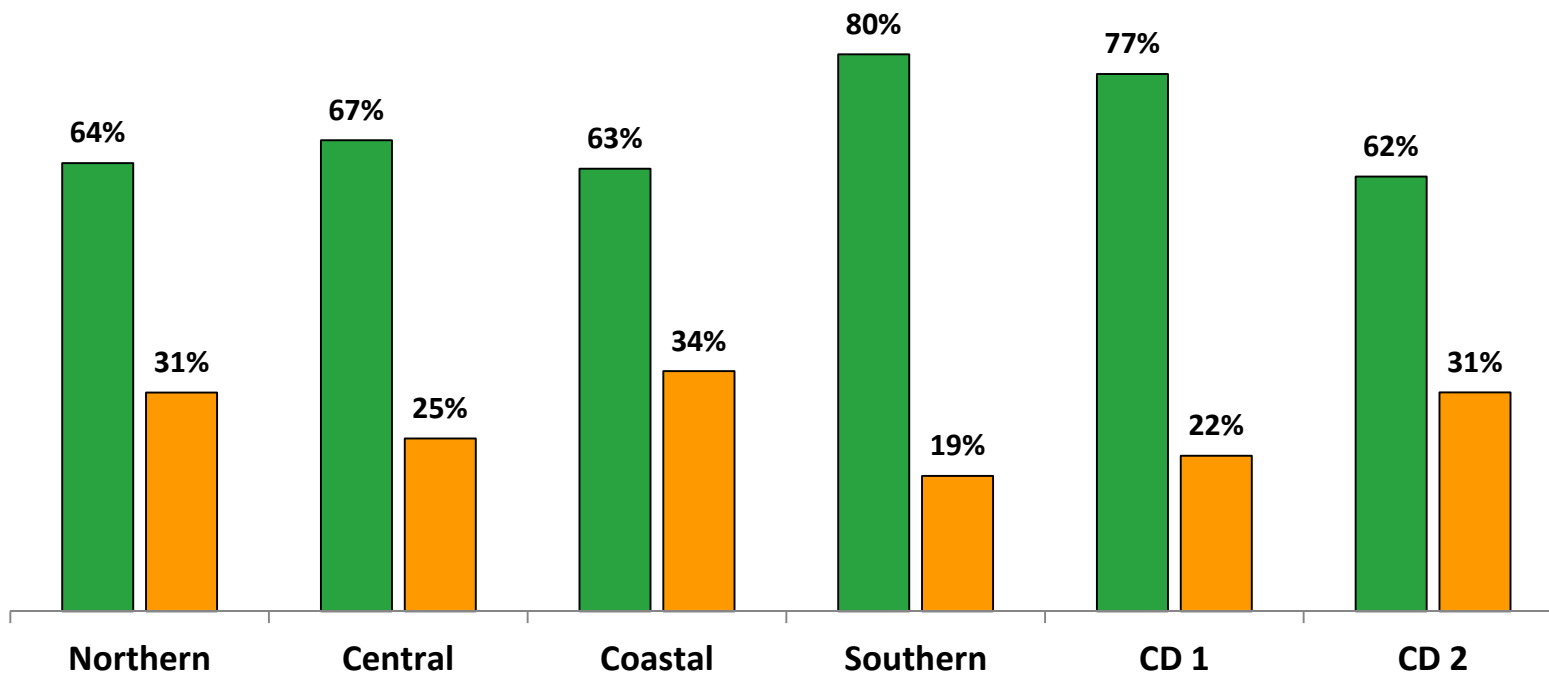
Don't Know



Majority of Voters in All Regions Believe Environmental Laws Have Worked and Should Not be Loosened Up

Which of the following comes closest to your own view?

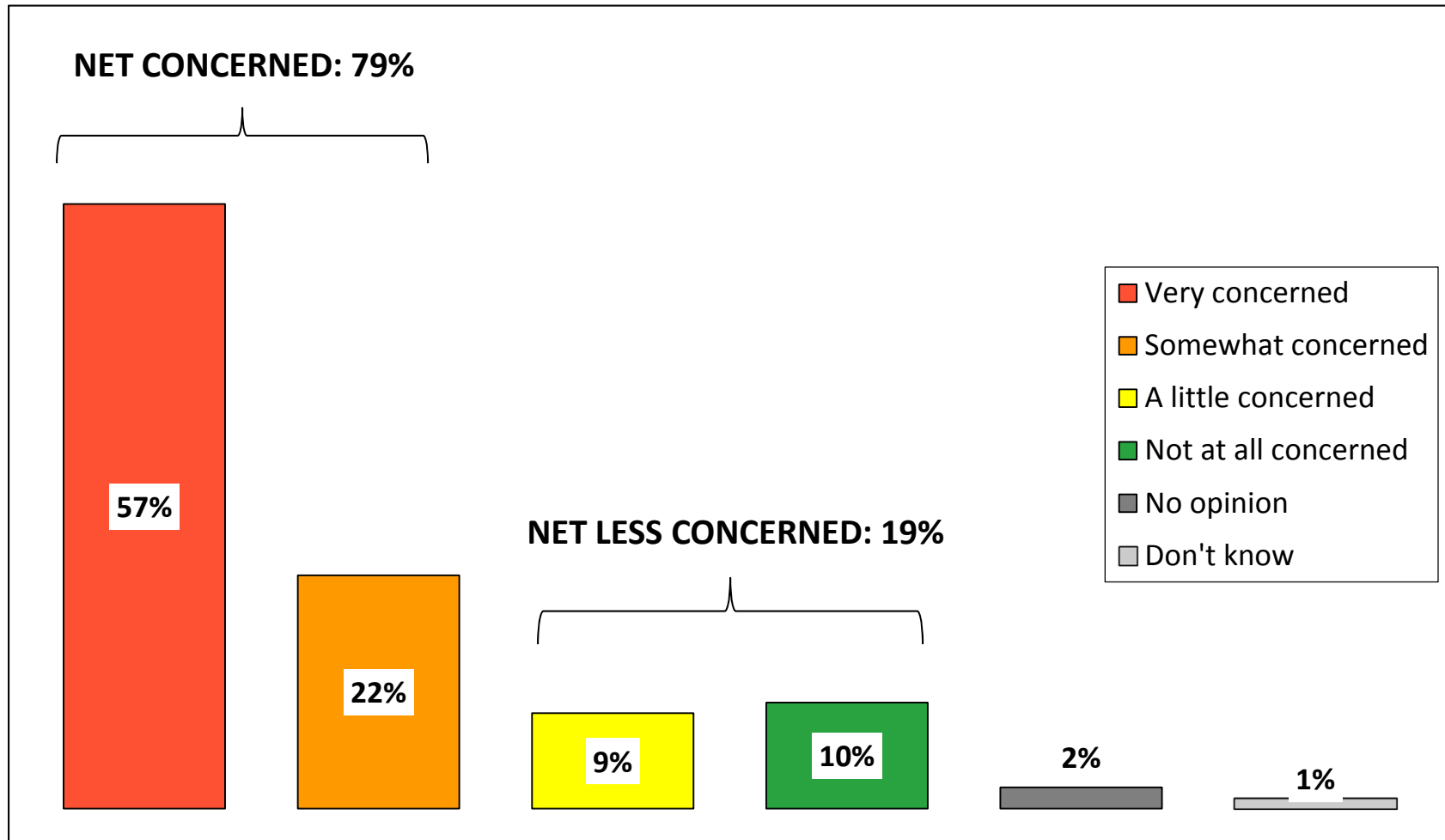
- Maine's environmental laws have worked. They protect our environment and public health. We can have a clean environment while also achieving a stronger economy.
- Maine's environmental laws have gone too far. They are hurting Maine's economy, so we should loosen them up.



* NORTHERN: Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset. CENTRAL: Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford.
COASTAL: Hancock, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo, Washington. SOUTHERN: Cumberland, York.

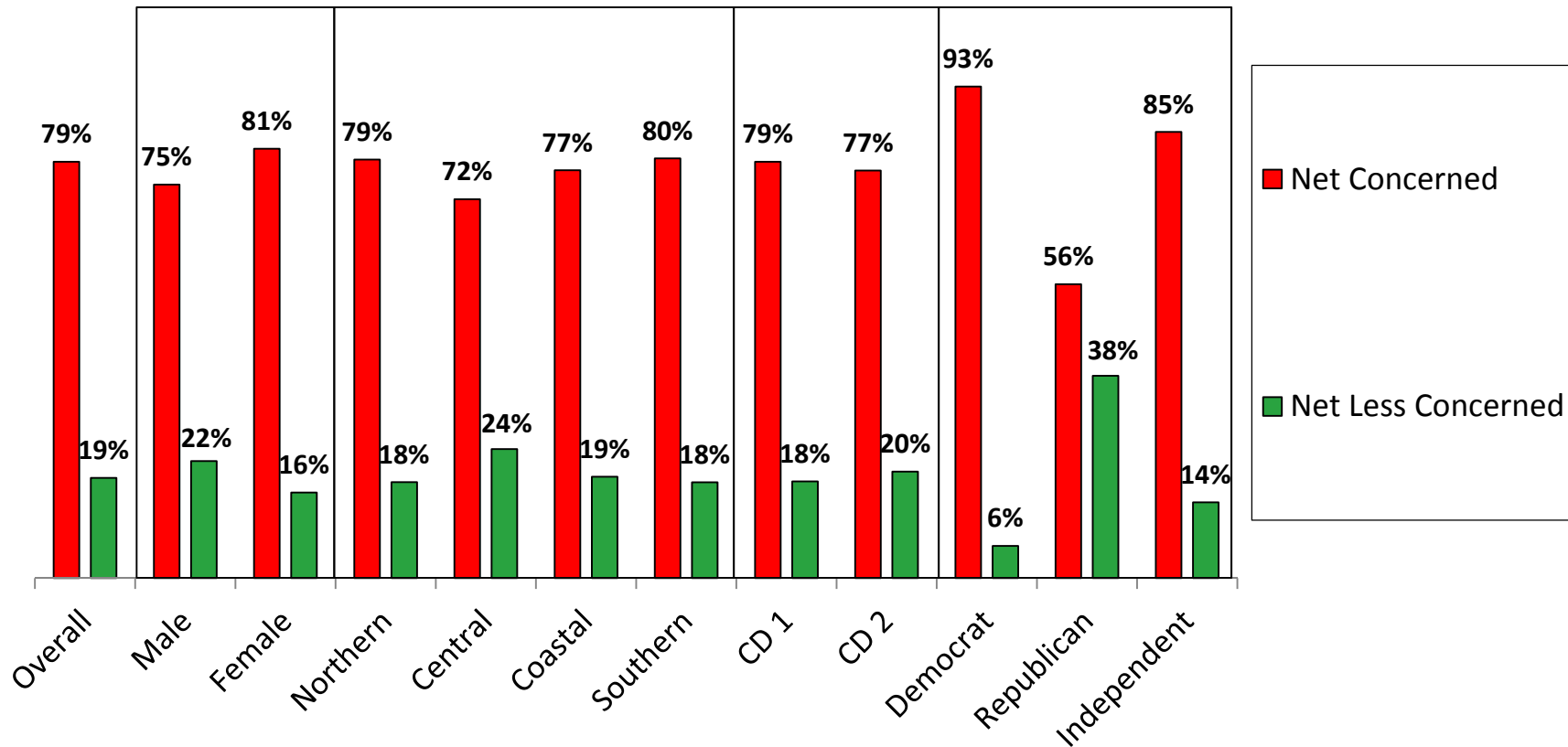
Concern About Rollbacks of Environmental Protections

How concerned would you be if you learned that your elected representative in the Maine State Legislature had voted to weaken laws that protect Maine's clean air, clean water, and the environment? Would you be very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not concerned at all?



Broad Voter Concern About Environmental Rollbacks

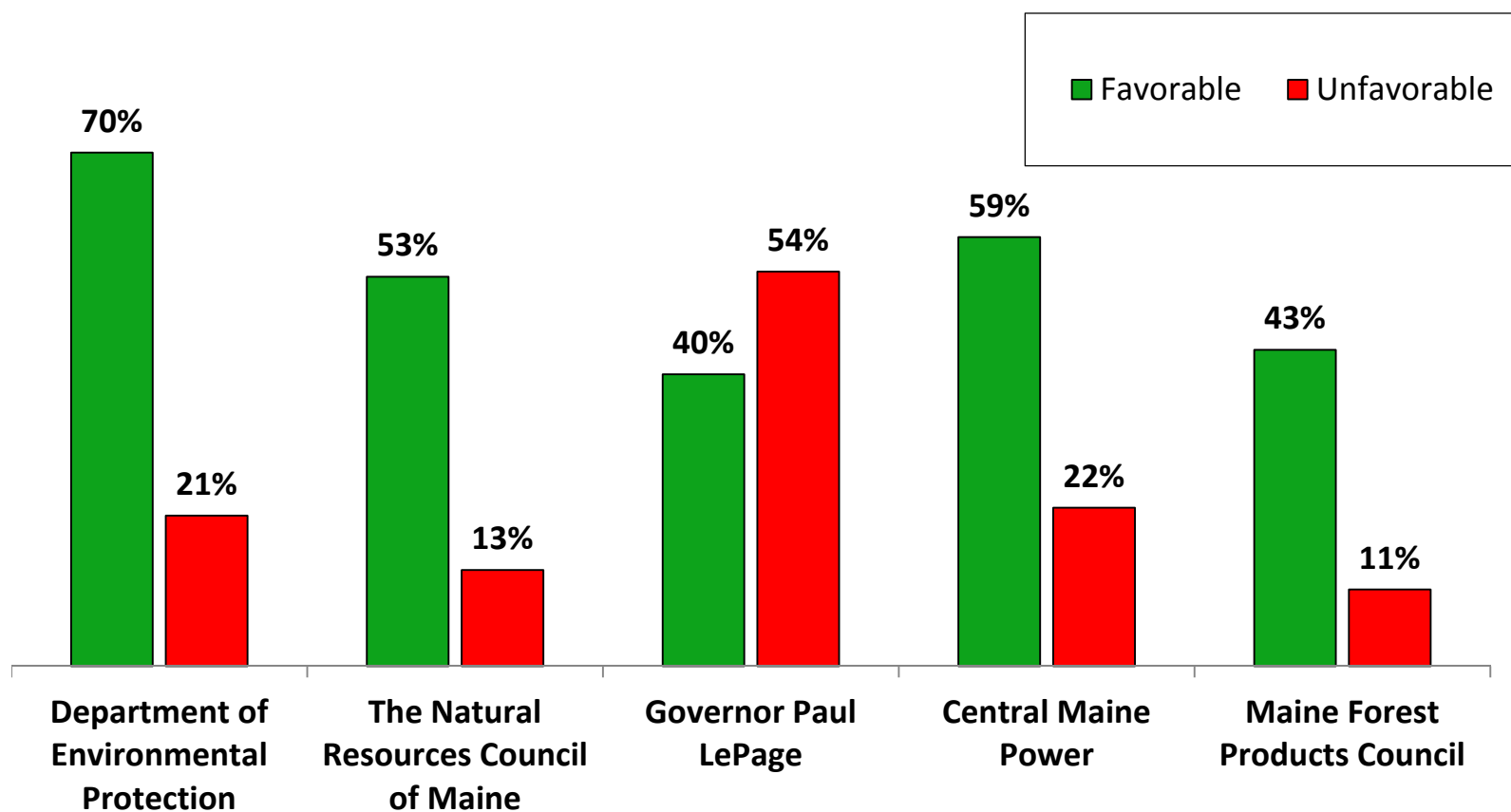
How concerned would you be if you learned that your elected representative in the Maine State Legislature had voted to weaken laws that protect Maine's clean air, clean water, and the environment? Would you be very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not concerned at all?



* NORTHERN: Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset. CENTRAL: Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford. COASTAL: Hancock, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo, Washington. SOUTHERN: Cumberland, York.

Favorability of Select Organizations and Individuals

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following organizations and individuals?



Sample Profile

Gender	Percent
Female	52%
Male	48%

Age	Percent
18 to 34	19%
35 to 44	21%
45 to 54	23%
55 to 64	17%
65 or older	18%

Annual Income	Percent
Less than \$50,000	32%
\$50,000 to just under \$75,000	23%
\$75,000 or more	36%
Refused	10%

Party Registration	Percent
Democrat	36%
Republican	30%
Unenrolled/Independent	26%
Green/Other	4%

Political Leanings	Percent
Conservative	46%
Liberal	33%
Neither conservative or liberal	17%
Refused	3%

NORTHERN: Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset.
CENTRAL: Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford.
COASTAL: Hancock, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo, Washington.
SOUTHERN: Cumberland, York.