



Natural Resources
Council of Maine

Views of Maine Voters Toward A Proposed CMP Transmission Line

March 2019

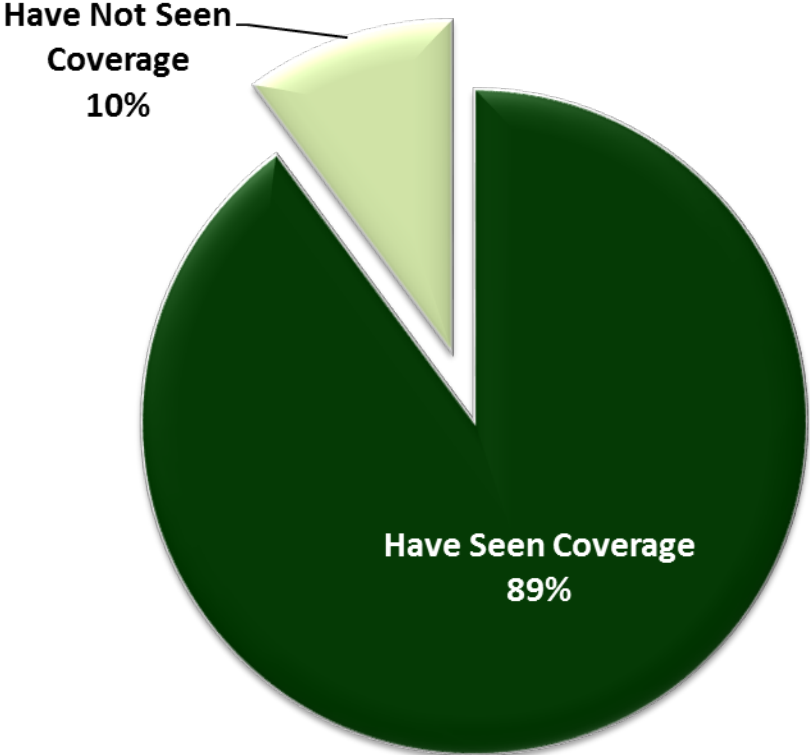
 **CRITICAL
INSIGHTS**
Market Research, Public Opinion Polling

Background & Methodology

- **This document presents the results of a survey conducted by Critical Insights on behalf of the Natural Resources Council of Maine.**
 - The purpose of the survey was to gauge views toward an electricity transmission corridor that Central Maine Power is proposing to build through western Maine in order to deliver energy from Canada to Massachusetts.
 - **The survey was conducted by telephone between March 11 and March 27, 2019.**
 - A total of 850 respondents took part in the survey.
 - Among these 850 respondents, a total of 299 are residents of Franklin County (124 respondents) or Somerset County (175 respondents), as these are the counties most directly impacted by the proposed transmission line.
 - **In order to qualify for the survey, respondents were required to live in Maine and be registered to vote in the state.**
 - The results of the statewide data presented in this report have a margin of sampling error of +/- 3.3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.
 - Final data were statistically weighted to reflect the age, gender, and county populations of the state.
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Nine out of ten registered voters in Maine know about CMP's proposed transmission corridor.

Awareness of Information About Project

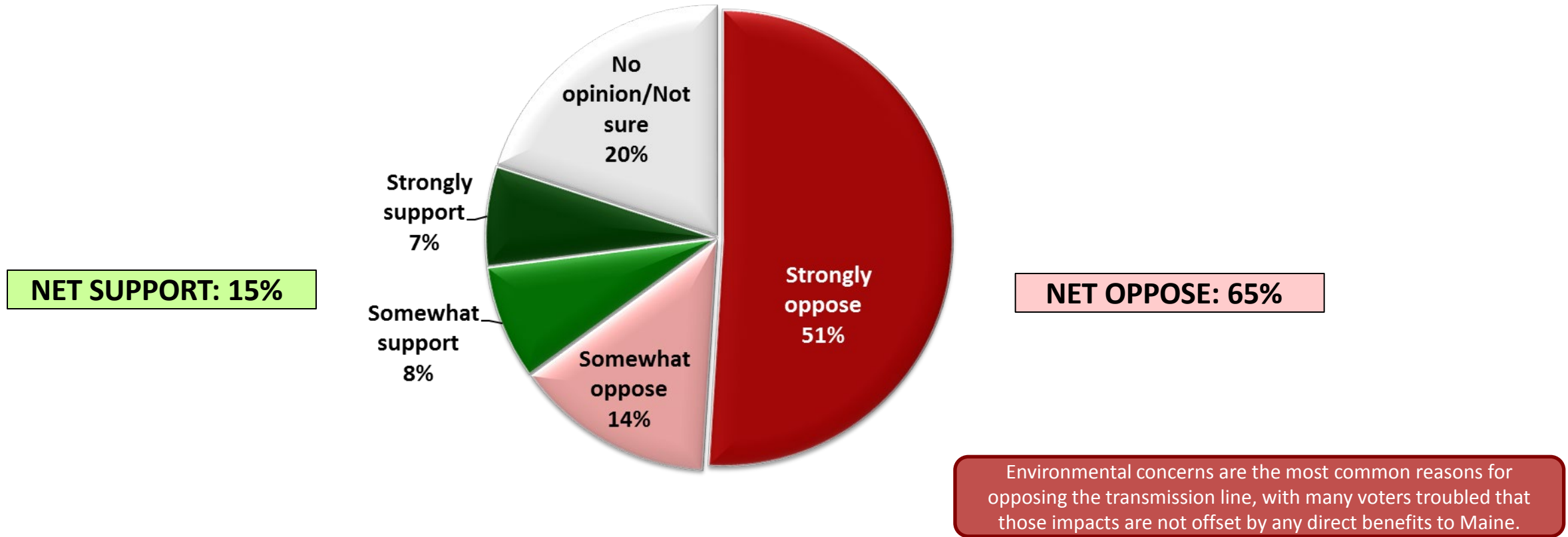


89% Have Seen, Read, or Heard about the CMP Project.

Among all (n=850)

A majority of surveyed Mainers overall oppose building the CMP transmission line corridor, with half *strongly* opposing it.

Top of Mind Position: With No Positive or Negative Information in Question

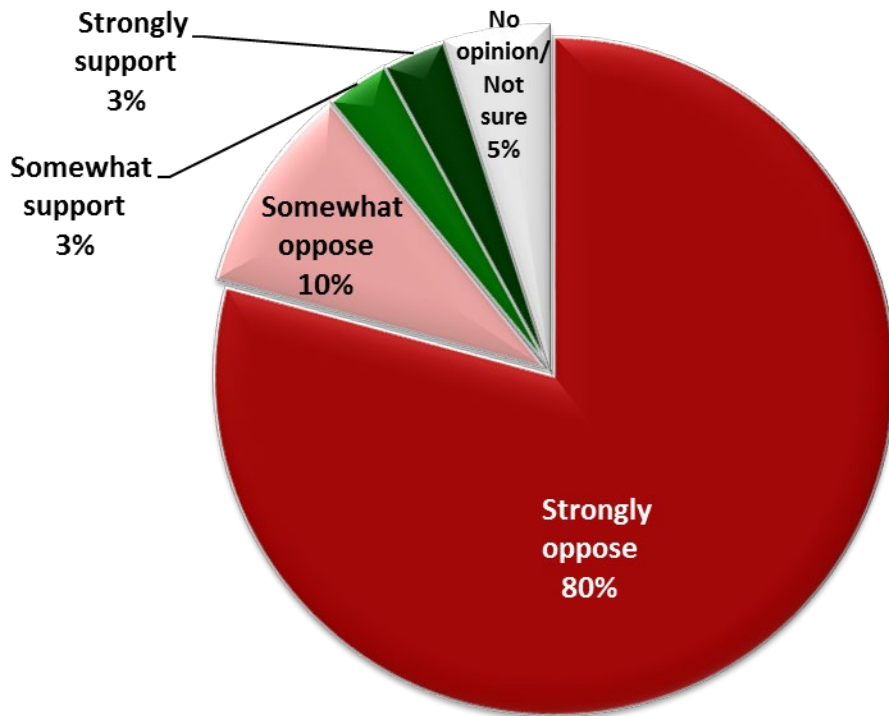


Among all (n=850)

Residents of Franklin and Somerset Counties are particularly opposed to the CMP transmission line corridor – at least three out of four *strongly* oppose it in these counties.

Top of Mind Position: With No Positive or Negative Information Provided

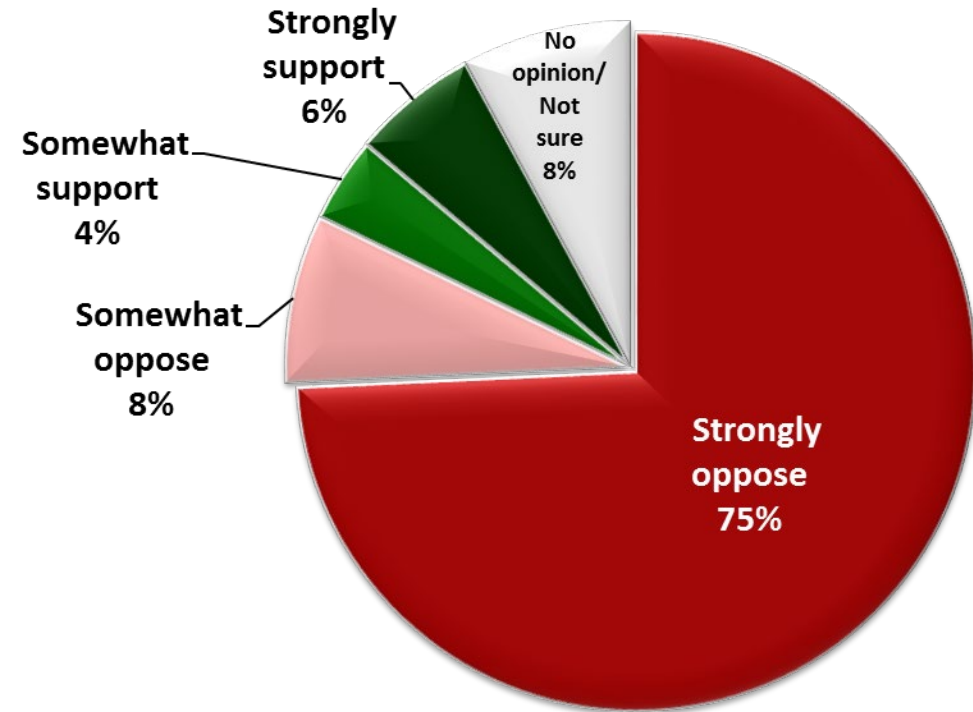
Franklin County



NET SUPPORT: 6%

NET OPPOSE: 90%

Somerset County



NET SUPPORT: 9%

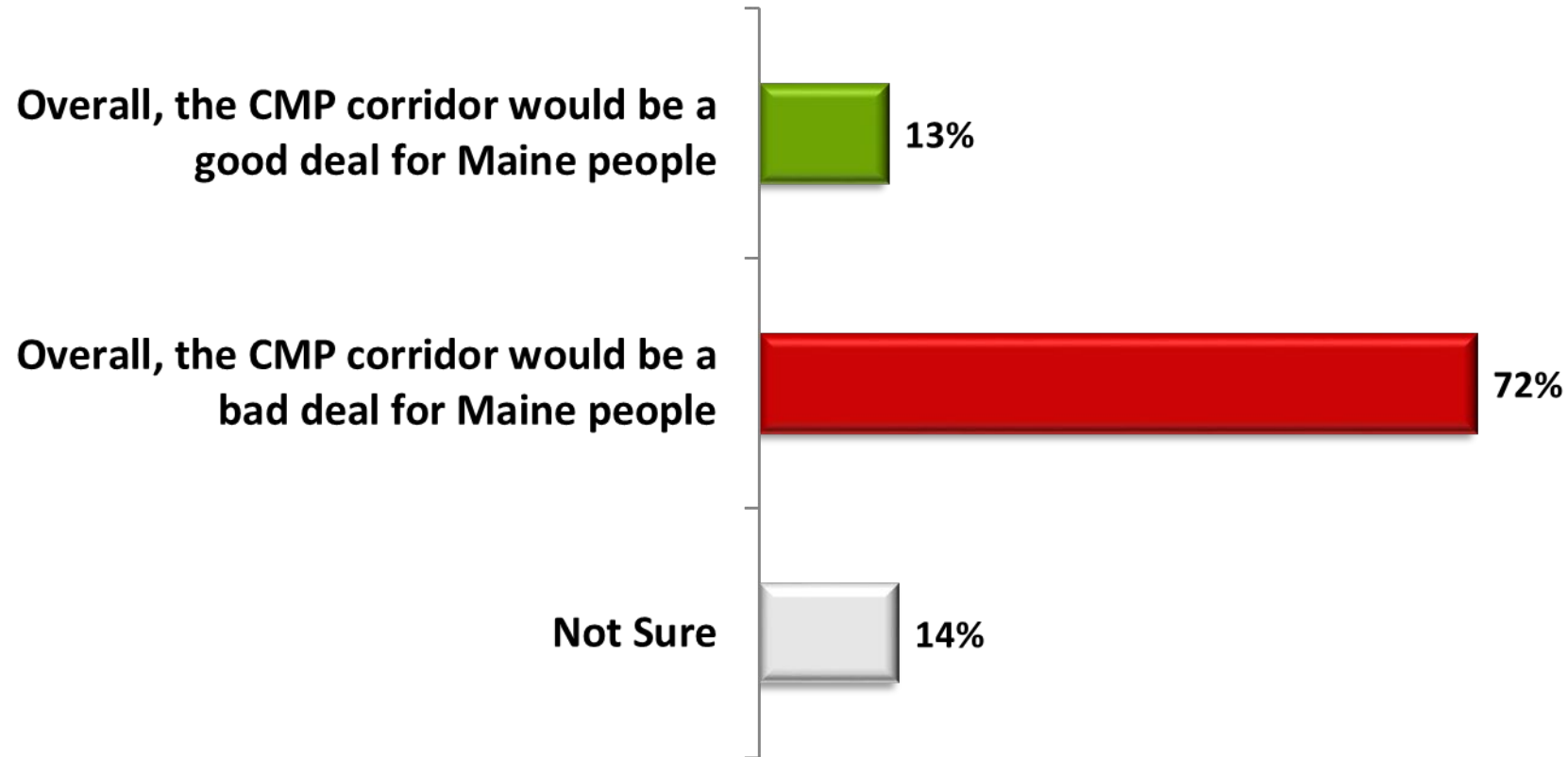
NET OPPOSE: 83%

Among all (n=124)

Among all (n=175)

Voters are skeptical that the CMP transmission line will provide benefits to Maine.
Seven out of ten overall feel it would be a *bad deal* for Maine people.

Which comes closest to your view?



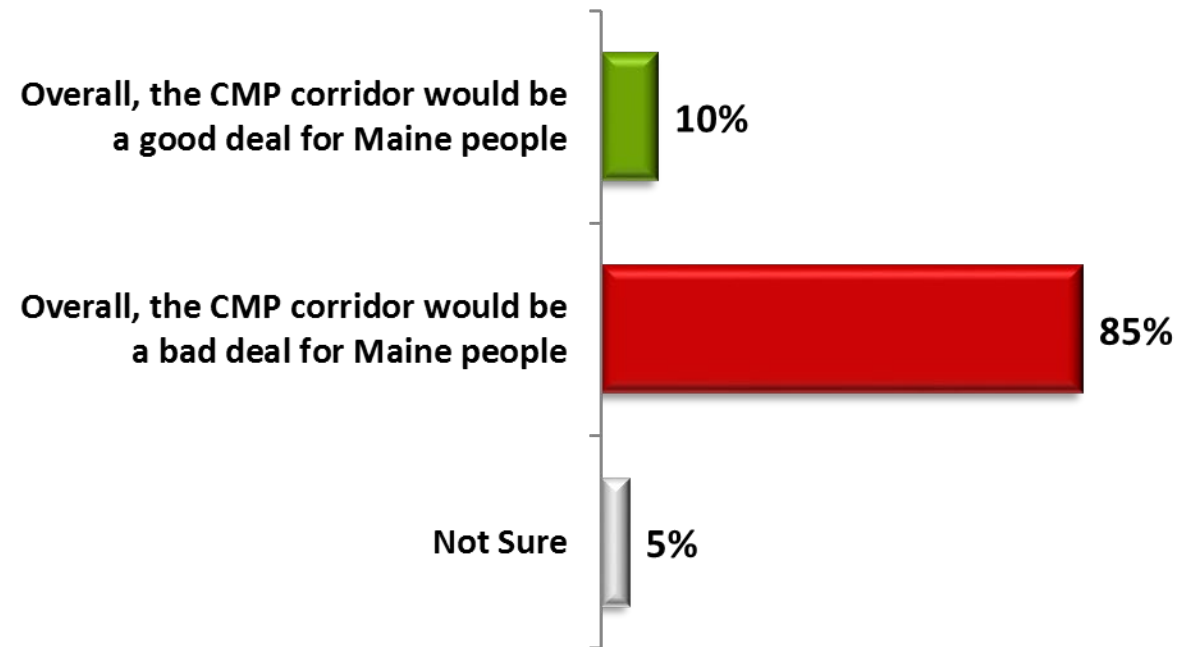
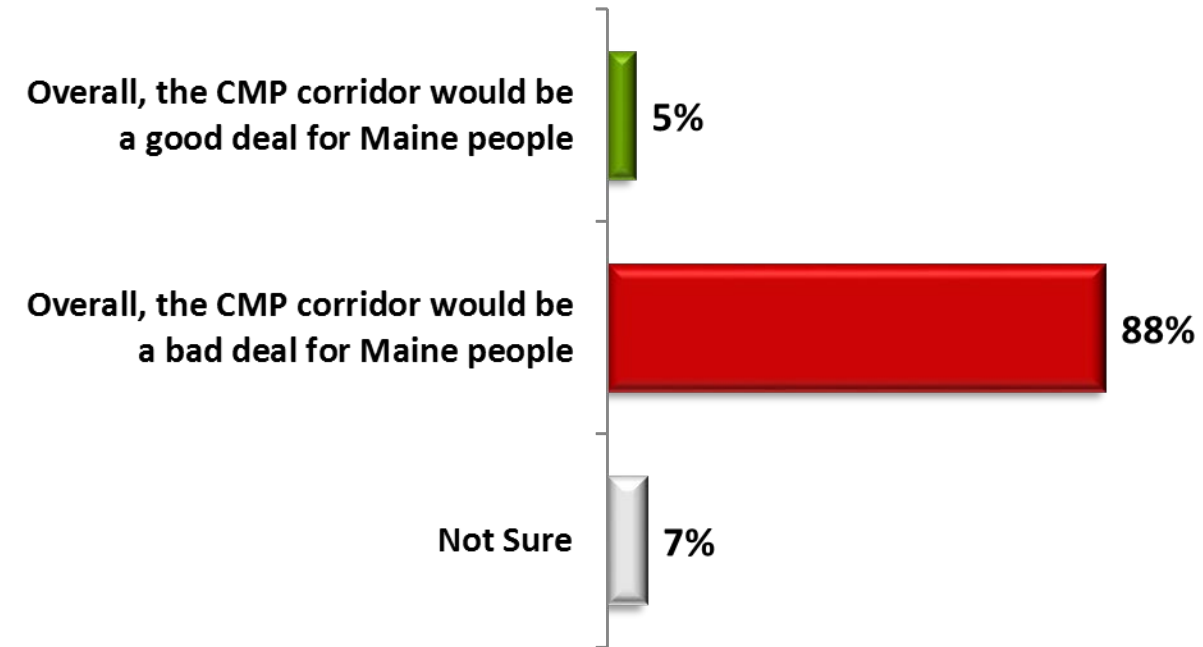
Among all (n=850)

Almost nine out of ten voters in Franklin and Somerset Counties feel the project would be a *bad deal* for Maine people.

Which comes closest to your view?

Franklin County

Somerset County

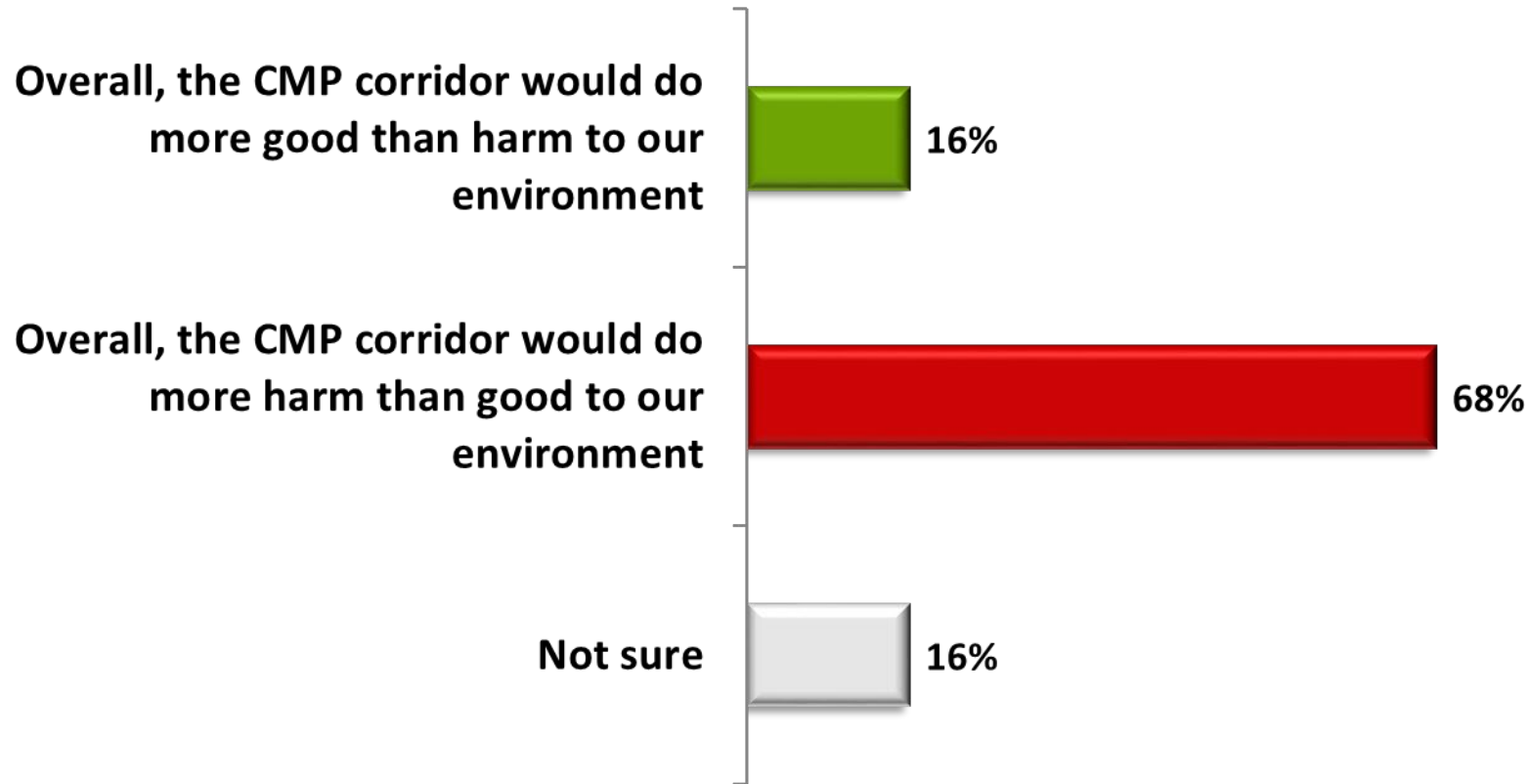


Among all (n=124)

Among all (n=175)

Seven out of ten voters across Maine believe the CMP corridor would do more harm than good to the state's environment.

Which comes closest to your view?



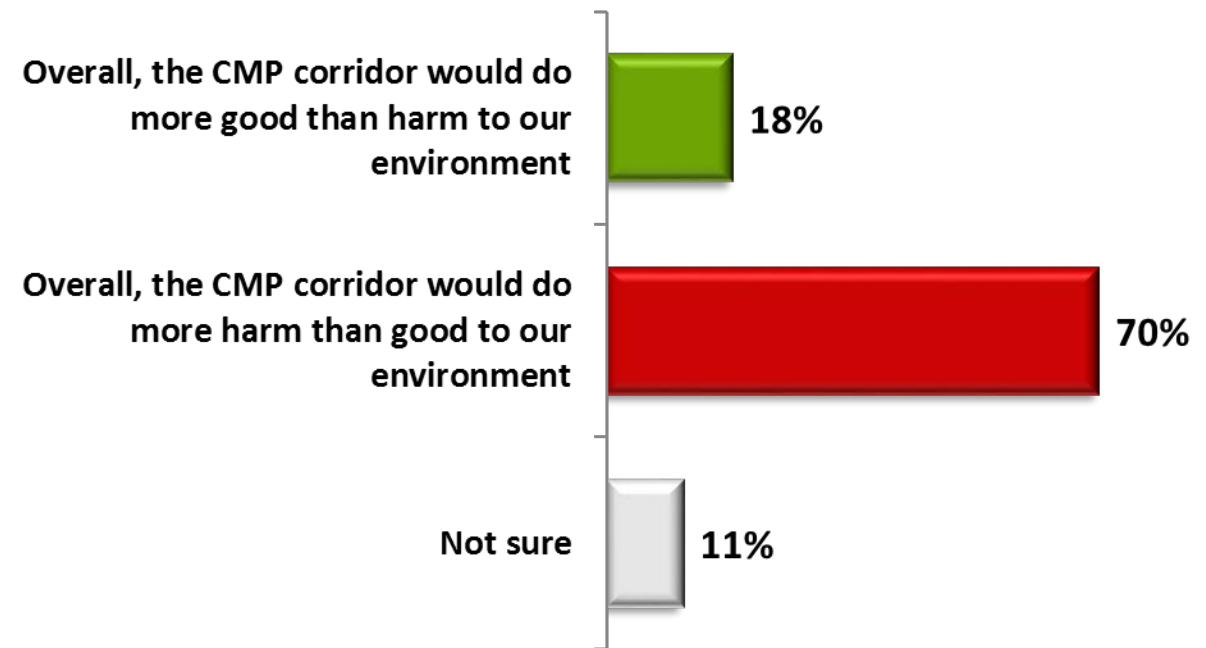
Among all (n=850)

Nine out of ten voters in Franklin County and seven out of ten voters in Somerset County feel the CMP corridor would do more harm than good to Maine's environment.

Which comes closest to your view?

Franklin County

Somerset County

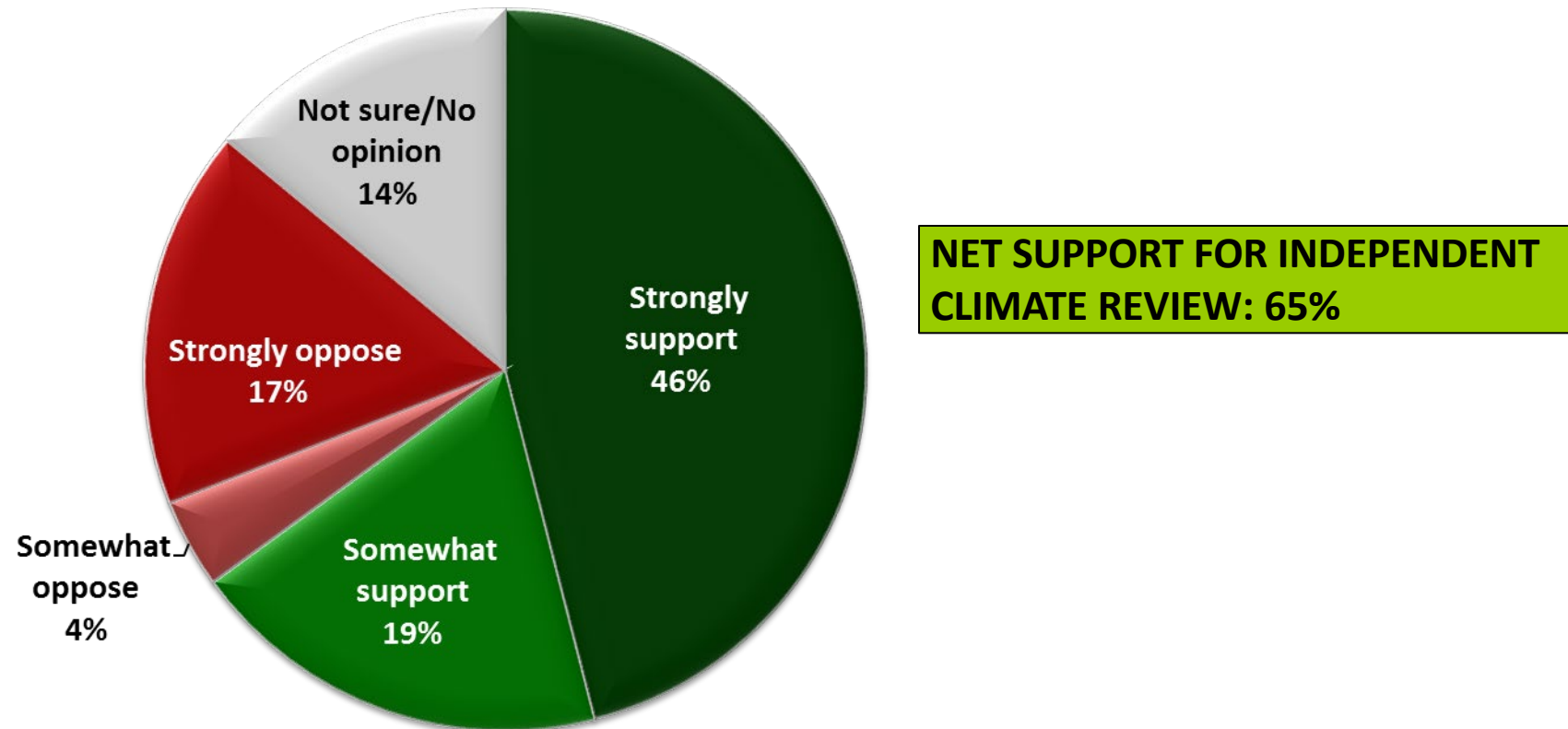


Among all (n=124)

Among all (n=175)

Two out of three surveyed voters would support a bill requiring DEP to independently review whether the project would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including almost half who would *strongly* support that review.

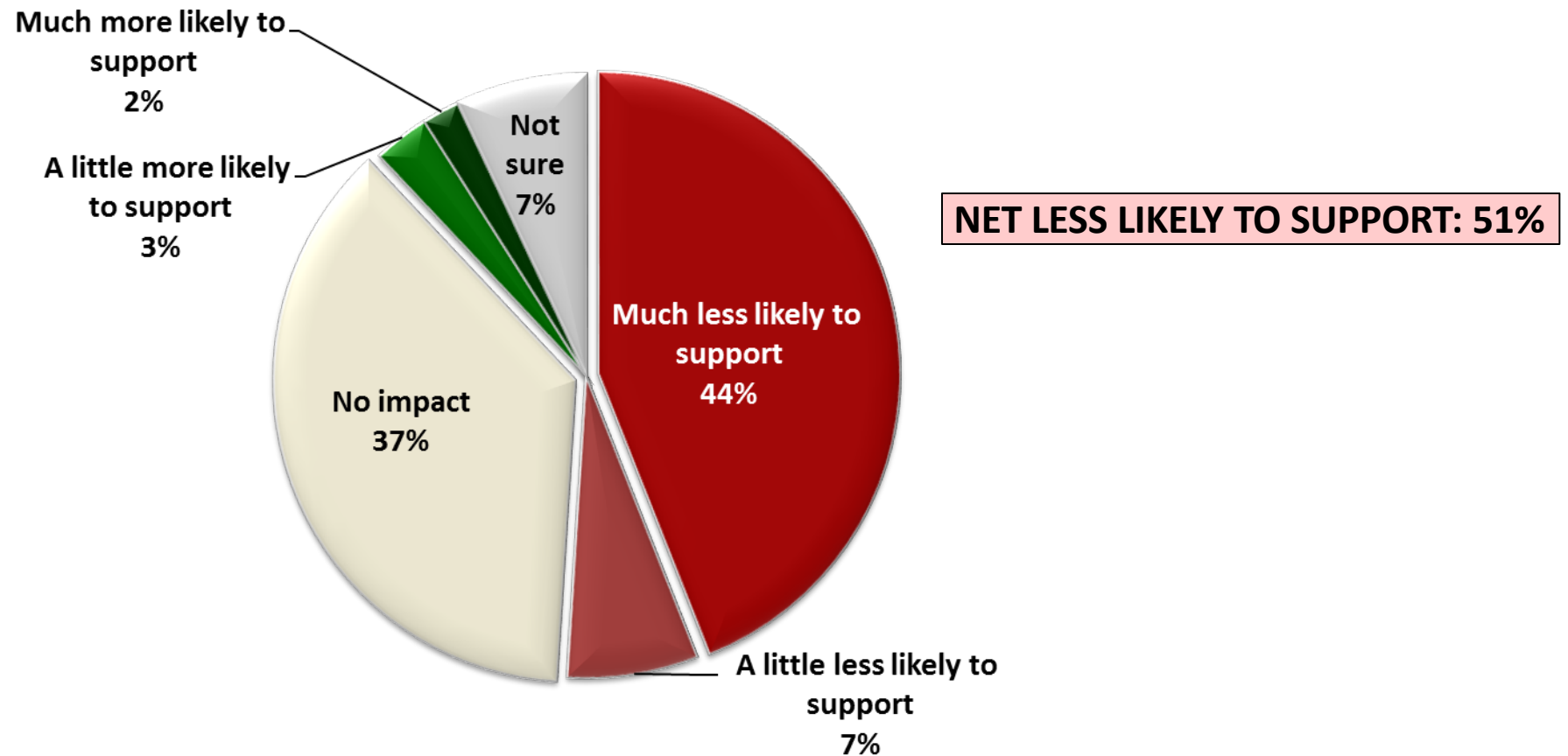
Support for Independent Review of Greenhouse Gas Pollution Impacts of Transmission Line



Among all (n=850)

The anticipated reductions in the cost of electricity are not large enough to sway public opinion – half of Maine voters are less likely to support the transmission line when told the average household would save one dollar per month.

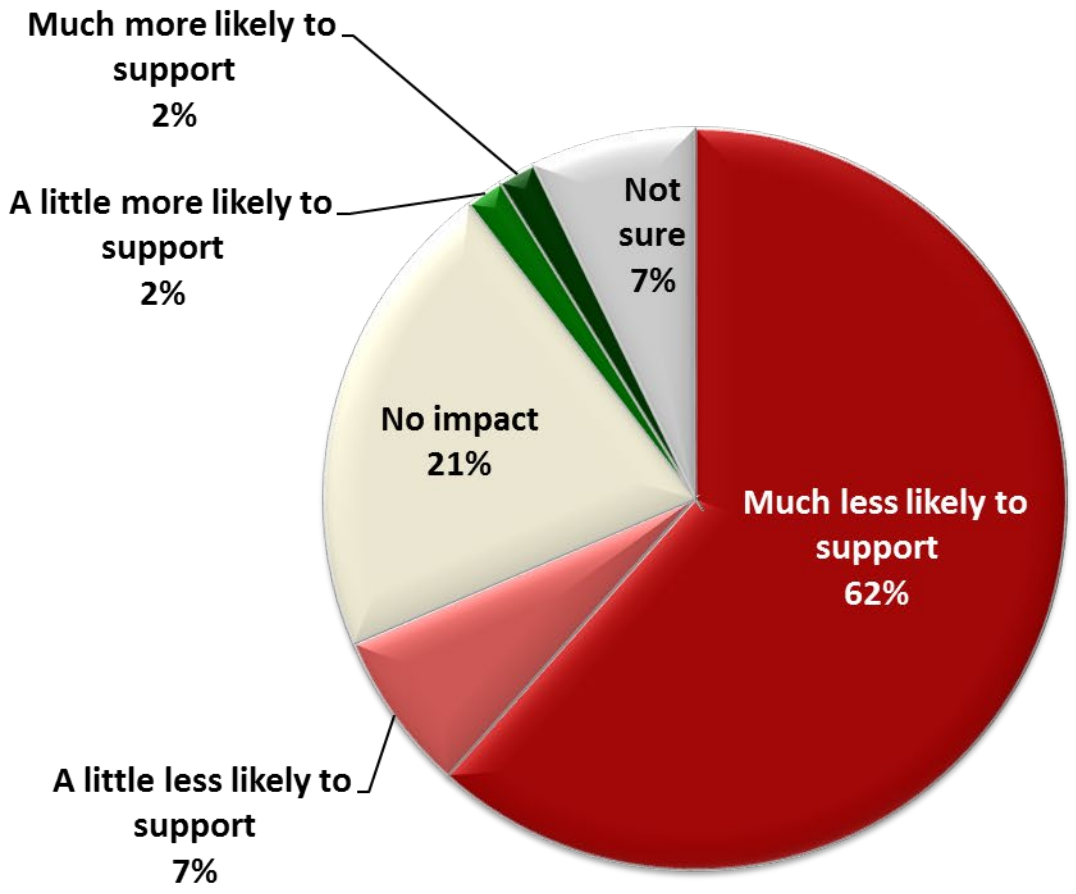
Reactions to Potential Reduction in Electricity Costs



Among all (n=850)

Maine voters do not want CMP to bypass local authority – seven out of ten would be less likely to support the transmission line if CMP overrides local votes against the corridor.

Support if CMP Bypasses Local Authority

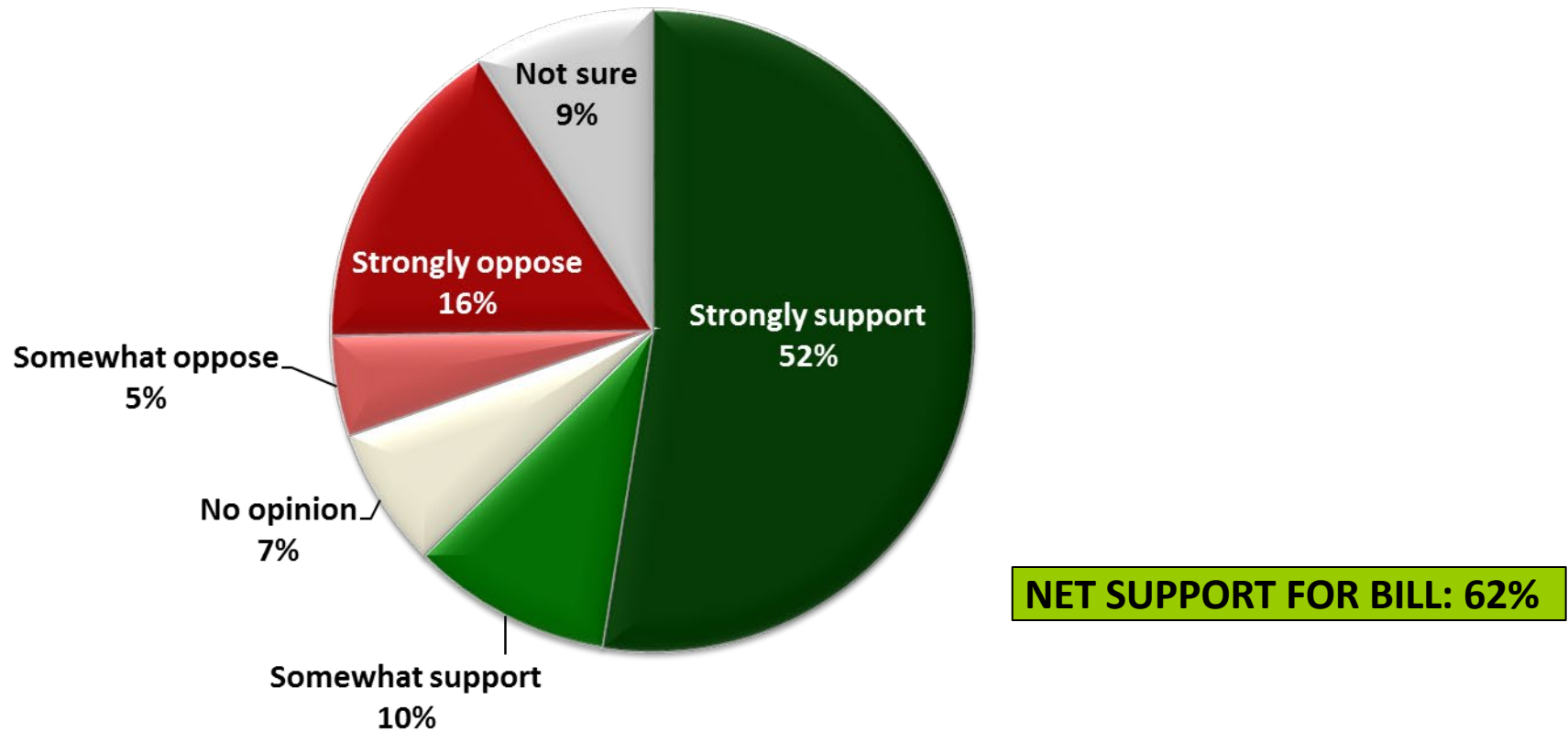


NET LESS LIKELY TO SUPPORT: 68%

Among all (n=850)

Almost two out of three Mainers support a bill to prevent CMP from forcing towns to accept the transmission line – half *strongly* support such a bill.

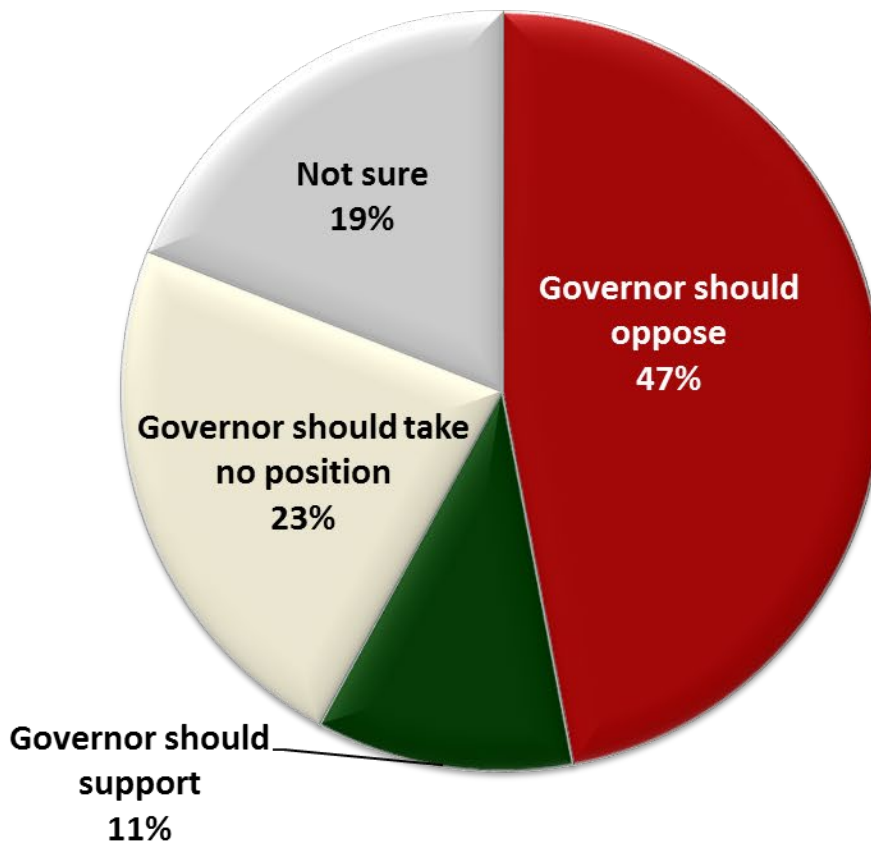
Support for Bill To Prevent Bypassing Local Authority



Among all (n=850)

Only one out of ten Mainers think the governor should support the proposed transmission line, compared to half who believe the governor should oppose the transmission line.

Position of the Governor on the Project



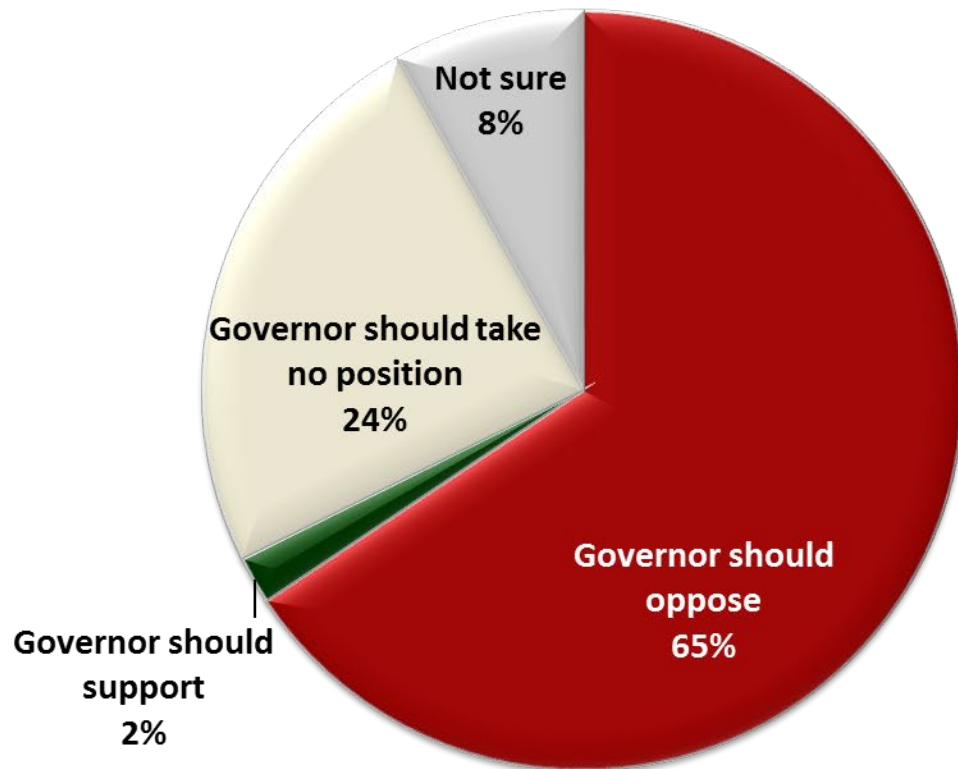
70% of Mainers believe the governor should oppose the CMP corridor or take no position.

Among all (n=850)

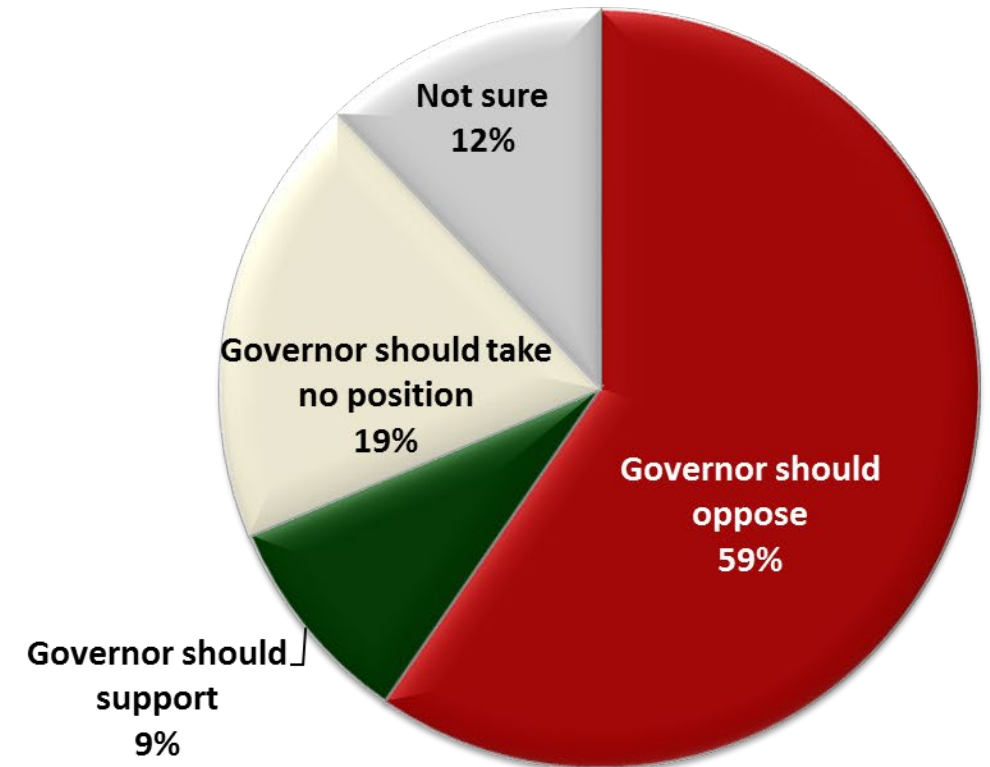
Voters in Franklin and Somerset Counties overwhelmingly feel the governor should oppose the transmission line – less than one in ten believe the governor should support the project.

Position of the Governor on the Project

Franklin County



Somerset County

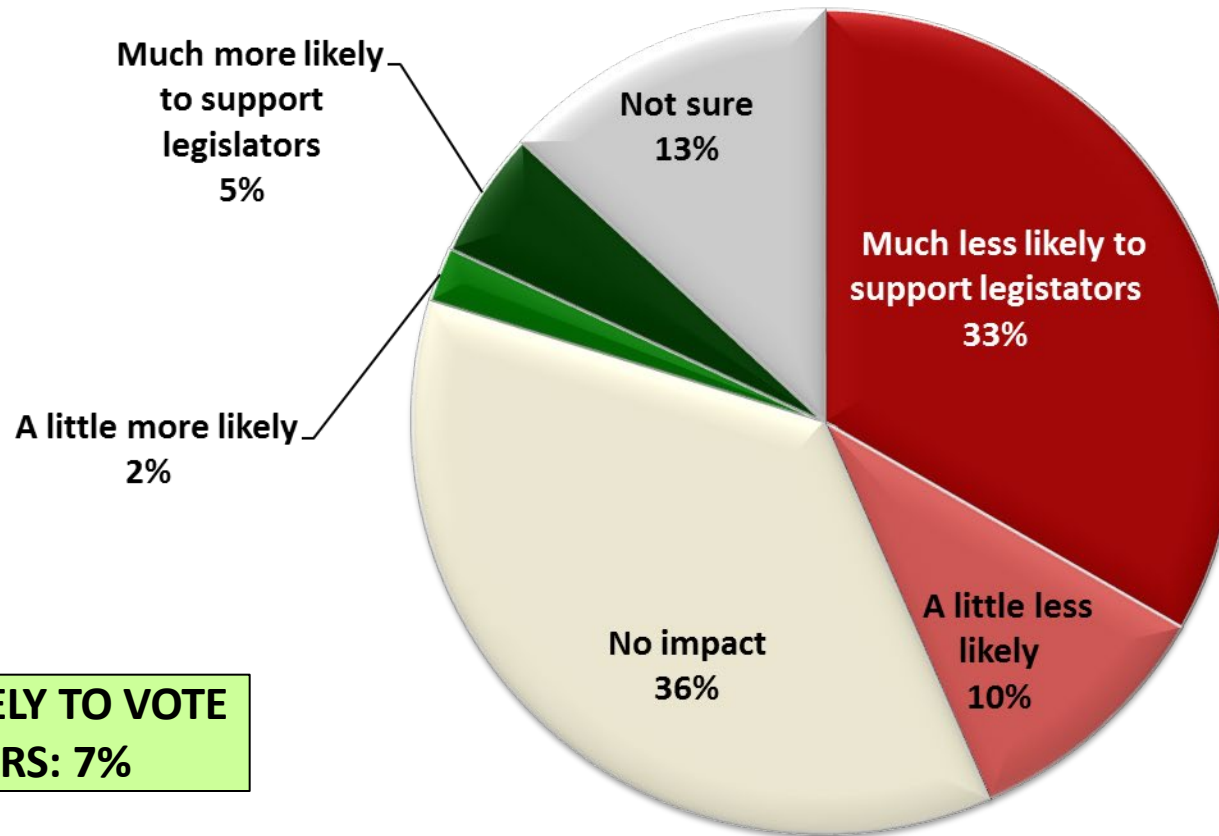


Among all (n=124)

Among all (n=175)

The largest share of voters – four out of ten – would be less likely to vote for legislators who support the proposed transmission line. One out of three would be *much less likely* to vote for legislators who support the transmission line.

Views Toward Legislators Who Support Transmission Line



NET MORE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR LEGISLATORS: 7%

NET LESS LIKELY TO VOTE FOR LEGISLATORS: 43%

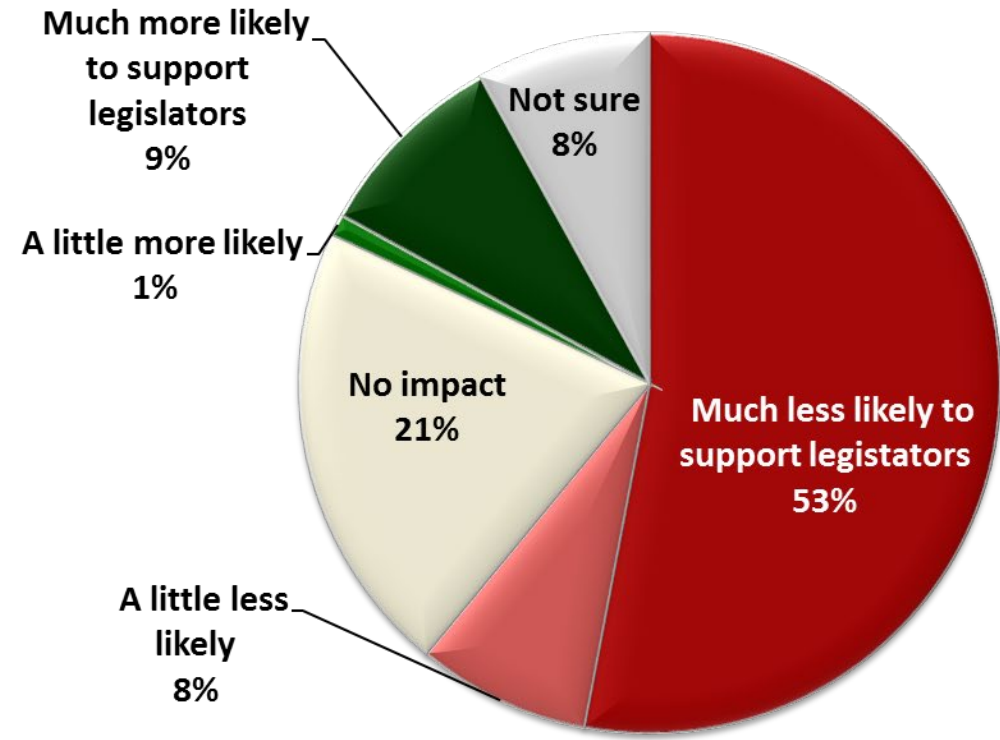
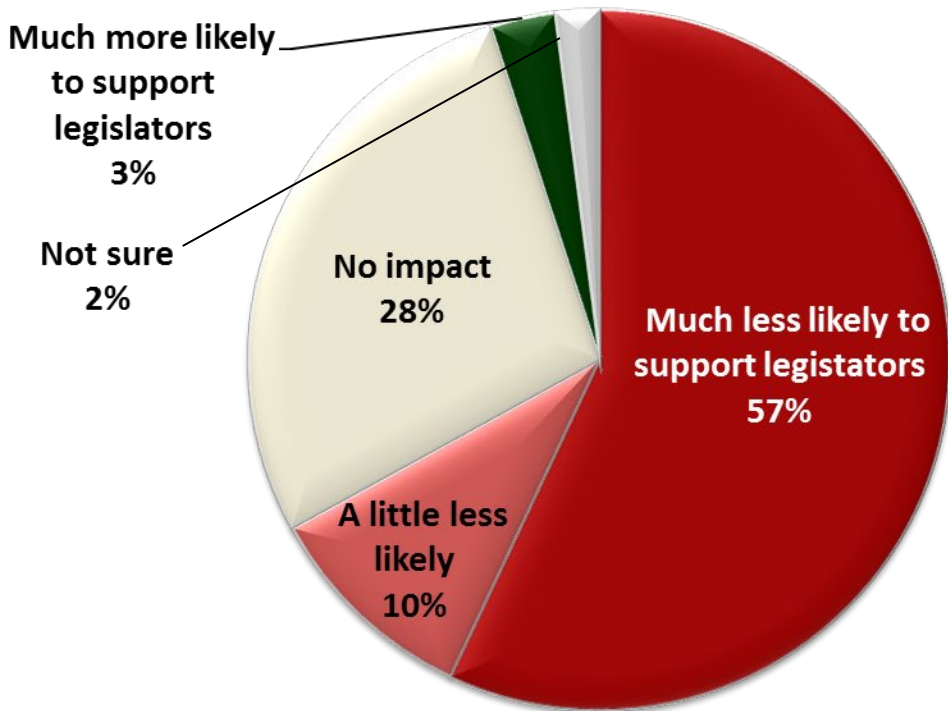
Among all (n=850)

A majority of voters in Franklin and Somerset Counties would be *much less likely* to vote for legislators who support the proposed transmission line.

Views Toward Legislators Who Support Transmission Line

Franklin County

Somerset County



NET MORE LIKELY: 3%

NET LESS LIKELY: 67%

NET MORE LIKELY: 10%

NET LESS LIKELY: 60%

Among all (n=124)

Among all (n=175)

Demographic Characteristics of Surveyed Mainers

Education	Total (n=850)	Franklin Co. (n=124)	Somerset Co. (n=175)	All Other Counties (n=551)
No formal schooling	1%			1%
Grammar school (up to 8th grade)	1%		3%	1%
Some high school	4%	6%	8%	4%
Graduated high school	30%	30%	31%	30%
Technical/vocational/community college	4%	2%	8%	4%
Some college	18%	19%	18%	18%
Graduated college	32%	29%	20%	33%
Graduate school or an advanced degree	9%	11%	8%	9%
Other	<0.5%	2%	<0.5%	<0.5%
Not sure	1%			1%
Prefer not to say	1%	<0.5%	4%	<0.5%

Age	Total (n=850)	Franklin Co. (n=124)	Somerset Co. (n=175)	All Other Counties (n=551)
18-34	13%	4%	11%	13%
35-44	24%	27%	33%	23%
45-54	17%	13%	13%	17%
55-64	22%	27%	23%	22%
65-74	14%	19%	10%	14%
75+	11%	10%	10%	11%

Party Affiliation	Total (n=850)	Franklin Co. (n=124)	Somerset Co. (n=175)	All Other Counties (n=551)
Democrat	35%	34%	21%	35%
Republican	33%	30%	31%	33%
Green Independent	20%	27%	26%	20%
Some other party	5%	4%	1%	5%
Unenrolled	2%	1%	10%	2%
Not sure	1%	1%	3%	1%
Prefer not to say	5%	2%	9%	4%

Gender	Total (n=850)	Franklin Co. (n=124)	Somerset Co. (n=175)	All Other Counties (n=551)
Male	49%	51%	61%	48%
Female	51%	49%	39%	52%

Demographic Characteristics of Surveyed Mainers

County of Residence	Total (n=850)
Cumberland	21%
York	15%
Penobscot	12%
Androscoggin	8%
Kennebec	8%
Aroostook	5%
Somerset	4%
Oxford	4%
Hancock	4%
Knox	3%
Lincoln	3%
Sagadahoc	3%
Waldo	3%
Franklin	2%
Washington	2%
Piscataquis	1%

Congressional District	Total (n=850)
Congressional District 1	51%
Congressional District 2	49%

Ethnicity	Total (n=850)	Franklin Co. (n=124)	Somerset Co. (n=175)	All Other Counties (n=551)
Asian or Pacific Islander	2%			2%
African American	<0.5%			<0.5%
Native American	2%		2%	2%
White or Caucasian	93%	97%	92%	93%
Some other race, ethnicity	1%	<0.5%	<0.5%	1%
Not sure	1%			1%
Prefer not to say	2%	3%	7%	1%

Household Income	Total (n=850)	Franklin Co. (n=124)	Somerset Co. (n=175)	All Other Counties (n=551)
Less than \$15,000	8%	4%	5%	9%
\$15,000 to less than \$25,000	7%	14%	8%	6%
\$25,000 to less than \$35,000	12%	16%	16%	12%
\$35,000 to less than \$50,000	15%	28%	10%	15%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	19%	6%	14%	19%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	13%	6%	8%	14%
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	8%	9%	4%	8%
\$150,000 to less than \$200,000	1%		5%	1%
\$200,000 or more	1%		2%	1%
Not sure	5%	1%	5%	5%
Prefer not to say	11%	16%	21%	10%