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**Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab Poll: Iowans Split on Carbon-Capture Pipelines**

According to a recent Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab Poll, Iowans' opinions are split regarding the construction of pipelines that would transport carbon dioxide from ethanol plants to be sequestered underground to reduce greenhouse emissions. A plurality of respondents, 32.4%, indicated support or strong support for the pipeline, while 24.7% of respondents oppose or strongly oppose the construction of the pipelines. Another 24.8% are neutral on the issue. Additionally, 18.0% of respondents either did not have an opinion on the issue or declined to answer. The online poll, designed by University of Iowa faculty and students as a research project, surveyed 883 voting-age Iowans between Feb. 10 and Feb. 25, 2022.

Support for the pipeline differed based on the respondents' indication of how worried they are about the impacts of global climate change. Among those who reported feeling "very worried" about global climate change, only 25.9% of respondents supported the pipelines while 37.1% were opposed to their construction. Those who were "very worried" about climate change were also the most likely to strongly oppose the pipeline, with 25.5% indicating so. Contrastingly, among those who reported feeling "not at all worried" about global climate change, 45.3% of respondents supported the construction of the pipelines and only 21.2% were opposed. Further, the differences in support among those who indicated that they were "somewhat worried" and "not worried much" about global climate change were less pronounced. Among respondents who were "somewhat worried" about climate change, 32.9% supported the pipelines and 20.4% opposed them, while 33.9% of those who were "not worried much" about climate change supported the pipeline and 15.3% opposed their construction.

Differences also were noted in the level of support based on respondents' alignment with their respective political parties. Almost half of the identified Republicans (48.0%) support the construction of pipelines. This differs from Democrats, of which 23.8% of respondents support the construction, and Independents, 28.3% of which support it. However, the most common selection by both Democrats and Independents was "neutral," with 25.2% and 26.2% respectively. As for opposing the construction pipelines, 19.5% of Democrats selected "strongly oppose," whereas only 7.8% of Republicans selected the same answer.

When looking at the results of the pipeline question by age, the largest proportion of respondents from every age group identified as neutral in terms of supporting the pipeline issue, excluding the 65 and older group. Almost one-third (32.8%) of those aged 18-29 said they feel neutral on the issue, 27.2% of those aged 30-49 were neutral, and 23.4% of individuals aged 50-64 identified the same way. In contrast, respondents aged 65 and older were less neutral, with 20.2% selecting "support" and 21.1% "strongly opposed." The rest of the respondents were split relatively equally among the remaining categories.

In contrast to the general pipeline question, to which more respondents said they supported its construction than didn't, there is much less support for the usage of eminent domain to carry out the pipeline's construction. Thus, while 32.4% of respondents support or strongly support building the pipeline, only 19.2% of respondents indicated they support or strongly support using eminent domain to do so. In contrast, 23.5% of respondents said they oppose the use of eminent domain in this scenario and another 32.3% strongly opposed its use.

Iowa law currently requires a majority of landowners along a pipeline's route to voluntarily agree to sell their land before eminent domain laws can be used to require other landowners to participate whether or not they want. But this requirement may not apply to pipelines that start or end in Iowa. Respondents were asked whether they supported extending the majority requirement to cover such pipelines. Slightly more respondents indicated that they support extending the law to require such a threshold than oppose it, 33.4% to 26.9%, but the plurality of respondents, 39.7%, either did not know whether they would support or oppose it or declined to answer. Support did not vary much with respondent age or partisanship. Support varied moderately with a respondent's community type, with 35.9% of urban respondents and 37.0% of suburban respondents in favor compared to 29.4% of rural respondents.

**Respondent identification:** The Iowa Social Science Research Center (ISRC) contracted with a respected web panel vendor to field the survey to a demographically representative sample of up to 900 respondents. Respondents invited to complete the web survey were Iowa adults, aged 18-120 years, recruited for participation via web panel. To obtain a census-representative sample, quotas were set on the following demographics: sex, age, and urbanicity.

**Sample:** 883 voting-age resident in Iowa, margin of error +/-3.4%.

**Weighting:** Reported results are weighted by age, sex, and party identification.

#### **About the Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab**

The poll was designed by the Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab, comprised of University of Iowa faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. The Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab is co-directed by Frederick J. Boehmke, professor of political science and Kajsia Dalrymple, professor of journalism and mass communication. The poll is a teaching, research, and service project, and was implemented in collaboration with the Iowa Social Science Research Center directed by Frederick J. Boehmke. The UI Public Policy Center provided support for this poll as part of its student success mission, intended to expand experiential policy-relevant research for UI students.

Thomas Dainty, Makenna Gregurek, Oskar Kaut, Sam Johnson, and Natalie Leathers, research fellows for the Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab assisted with the preparation of this release.

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