



## David Binder Research

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To: Interested Parties  
From: David Binder Research  
Date: July 28, 2008  
Re: Key Findings from a recent Western States Survey<sup>1</sup> commissioned by the Union of Concerned Scientists

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Results of a David Binder Research survey, conducted July 19-23, among 2003 voters in the Western States of Arizona, California, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Washington, show that voters are extremely concerned about gas prices and support action to reduce oil dependency and greenhouse gas pollution.

Voters are concerned that gas prices will continue to rise unless urgent action is taken to reduce oil consumption and greenhouse gas pollution and they strongly support requirements for cleaner cars, trucks and fuels.

There is strong voter demand for state action to reduce dependency on oil and the global warming emissions that dependency produces. Specifically, voters overwhelmingly support their state taking action to reduce greenhouse gas pollution from the transportation sector.

Specific findings include:

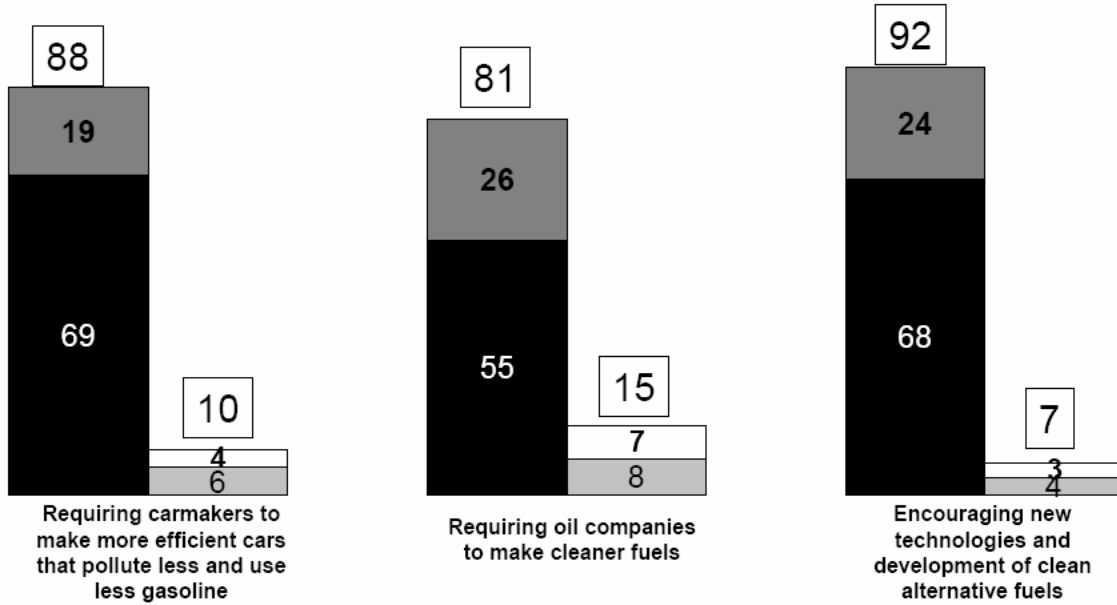
- Eighty-three percent of the respondents say that gas prices are going to rise over the long run unless we take action to make our cars and trucks run on less gas, alternative fuels or electricity.
- Even if the price of gasoline drops in the short term, 95 percent of voters surveyed say that immediate action is needed to avoid a future crisis.
- Ninety one percent of voters say it's important for the country to end its dependence on oil.

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<sup>1</sup> From July 19-23, 2008, DBR conducted a telephone survey of 2003 registered voters in seven Western states. Surveys were conducted with 500 voters in California, and 250 voters in each of Arizona, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington. The margin of error was  $\pm 2.2\%$  overall,  $\pm 4.4\%$  in California and  $\pm 6.2\%$  in Arizona, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

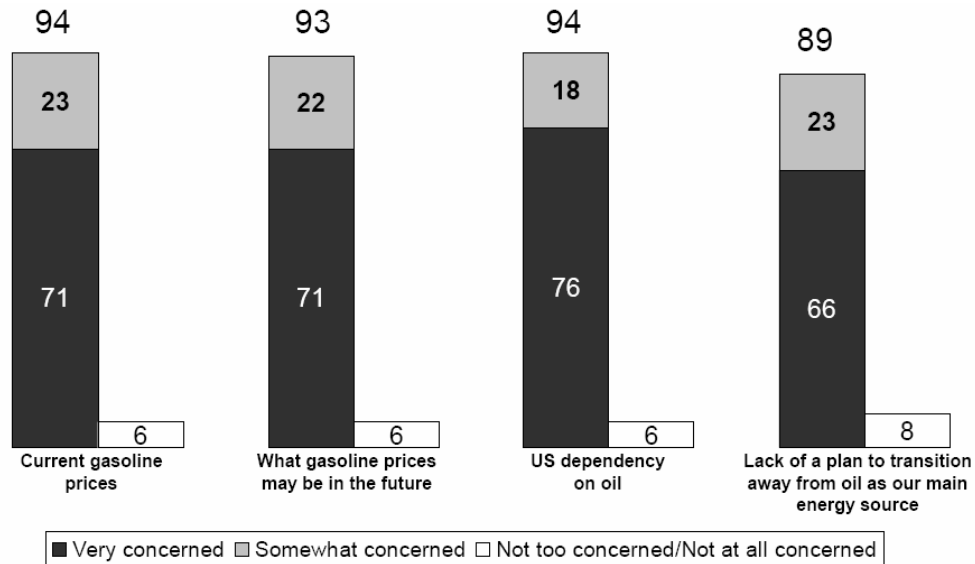
- Eighty-four percent agree that cars, trucks and other transportation sources should be required to reduce their greenhouse gas pollution similar to requirements for power plants and factories.
- The survey also found that large majorities support state action to reduce global warming pollution by requiring automakers produce more efficient cars that pollute less and use less gasoline (88 percent) and oil companies to make cleaner fuels (81 percent). (Table 1)

**Table 1**  
**Support for your state talking the following actions**



- While 59 percent of the survey respondents say that current gasoline prices have caused some or great financial hardship, large majorities are concerned with gas prices now (94 percent), gas prices in the future (93 percent), U.S. dependency on oil (94 percent), and a lack of a plan to transition from oil (89 percent). (Table 2)

**Table 2**  
**Concerns on current issues**



- Seventy-six percent of the respondents who are planning to buy a car or light truck say they are likely to shop for an alternative fuel vehicle, a hybrid or a vehicle that gets much higher gas mileage.
- Pluralities in most states -- while region wide slightly less than half of total respondents -- support a significant increase in gas prices (as much as 50 cents per gallon) to invest in energy efficiency and alternative fuels.
- Nearly two-thirds of the respondents (63 percent) support new fees on oil companies to be used for improving public transportation.
- Respondents support taking action to reduce greenhouse gas pollution if it would result in reducing air pollution (88 percent) or result in reducing dependency on oil (86 percent).

- Respondents do not feel that gas prices are going to come down (60 percent say they won't), but even if they do come down, 95 percent say we need to act now to avoid a future crisis. 83 percent say gas prices will continue to rise unless we take action to make our cars and trucks run on less gas or alternative fuels or electricity. (Table 3.)

**Table 3**  
**Feelings on future gas prices**

