

MOUNTAIN TOP REMOVAL COAL MINING

What Americans Think About Bush Administration
Plans for Weaker Environmental Rules

Produced for

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Methodology

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted among a sample of 1,001 adults (501 men and 500 women) age 18 and over, living in private households, in the continental United States. Interviewing was completed during the period of August 30-September 2, 2007.

Completed interviews of the 1,001 adults were weighted by four variables: age, sex, geographic region, and race, to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the total adult population.

The margin of error at a 95% confidence level is plus or minus three percentage points for the sample of 1,001 adults. Smaller sub-groups will have larger error margins.

Executive Summary

- Nearly nine out of 10 Americans (88 percent) – including 83 percent of Republicans, 82 percent of Independents and 94 percent of Democrats – agree with the statement: “Before the United States puts in place new regulations to permit more coal mining, it should first make sure that coal mines and coal mining practices are safe for miners, nearby communities and the environment.” The impact of recent mining deaths in Utah and Indiana are evident in the findings, with 93 percent of women and 81 percent of men agreeing with the statement.
- About two out of three Americans (65 percent) oppose the Bush Administration plan “to ease environmental regulations to permit wider use of ‘mountain top removal’ (MTR) coal mining in the U.S.” Only about one out of four Americans (26 percent) support such a step – including 27 percent of Independents, 42 percent of Republicans, and 14 percent of Democrats. Women (21 percent) are less likely to support expanded MTR coal mining than are men (31 percent). Regional differences in opposition to the Bush Administration plan are relatively minor, including in the South (63 percent), where most MTR coal mining currently takes place.
- The already low support for MTR coal mining drops even further when supporters are told that the proposed easing of environmental rules “could result in the leveling of 700 additional U.S. mountains over the next 10 years.” When the one out of four Americans (26 percent) who support the MTR coal mining change learn of this fact, the percentage who switch their views approaches one half (45 percent), compared to half who continue to support MTR.

Executive Summary

- More than seven out of 10 Americans (71 percent) would “oppose the use of ‘mountain top removal’ coal mining” for a mountain located within 50 miles of their home. Half of those surveyed would “strongly oppose” such mining near where they live. Support for such coal mining is present among fewer than two out of five Republicans (37 percent), 25 percent of Independents and 16 percent of Democrats.
- More than three out of four Americans (77 percent) agree with the statement: “It would be better for the Bush Administration to concentrate first on energy conservation to reduce energy waste before resorting to more mountaintop removal coal mining.” Over half of Americans (52 percent) “strongly agree” with the statement, with certain subgroups (e.g., 18-24 year olds at 62 percent) among the most intense supporters. This statement attracts strong bipartisan support: 65 percent of Republicans; 71 percent of Independents; and 87 percent of Democrats. Women (82 percent) are more likely than men (71 percent) to support the statement. The level of support for the statement in the coal-rich South (78 percent) is roughly the same as in the rest of the nation.
- On an unaided basis, almost half (45 percent) of Americans say that they “have heard of a coal mining industry practice known as ‘mountain top removal,’ which involves the leveling of an entire mountain to get at coal and the filling in of nearby valleys and streams with the removed rock and soil from the mountain.” Men (54 percent) were more likely than women (37 percent) to say that they know about MTR coal mining on an unaided basis.

Detailed Charts

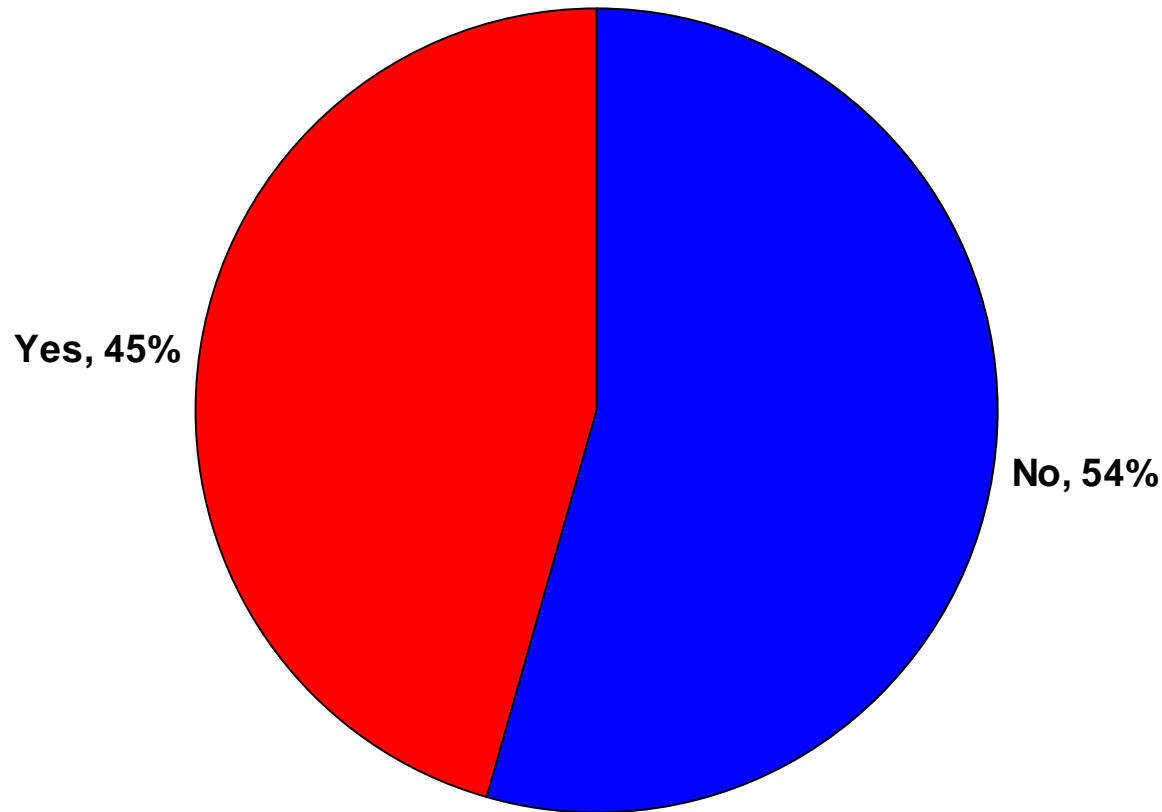
Awareness of Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining

- Americans are about evenly split when it comes to being aware of a form of coal mining known as “mountain top removal.” Forty-five percent have heard of this technique that removes the top of a mountain in the search for coal and deposits the spoils in adjacent valleys. Fifty-four percent have not heard of this.
 - Men are more likely to have heard of this than are women (54% vs. 37%.)
 - Awareness increases as the age of the respondent does: only 34% of those age 18-24 say they have heard of it, compared to 58% of those age 65 and over.
 - Those with less than a high school education are a lot less likely to say they have heard of this than are those with a college degree (33% vs. 51%).

Awareness of Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining

P1: Please tell me if you have heard of a coal mining industry practice known as “mountain top removal,” which involves the leveling of an entire mountain to get at coal and the filling in of nearby valleys and streams with the removed rock and soil from the mountain.

Awareness of Mountain Top Removal Mining is Split



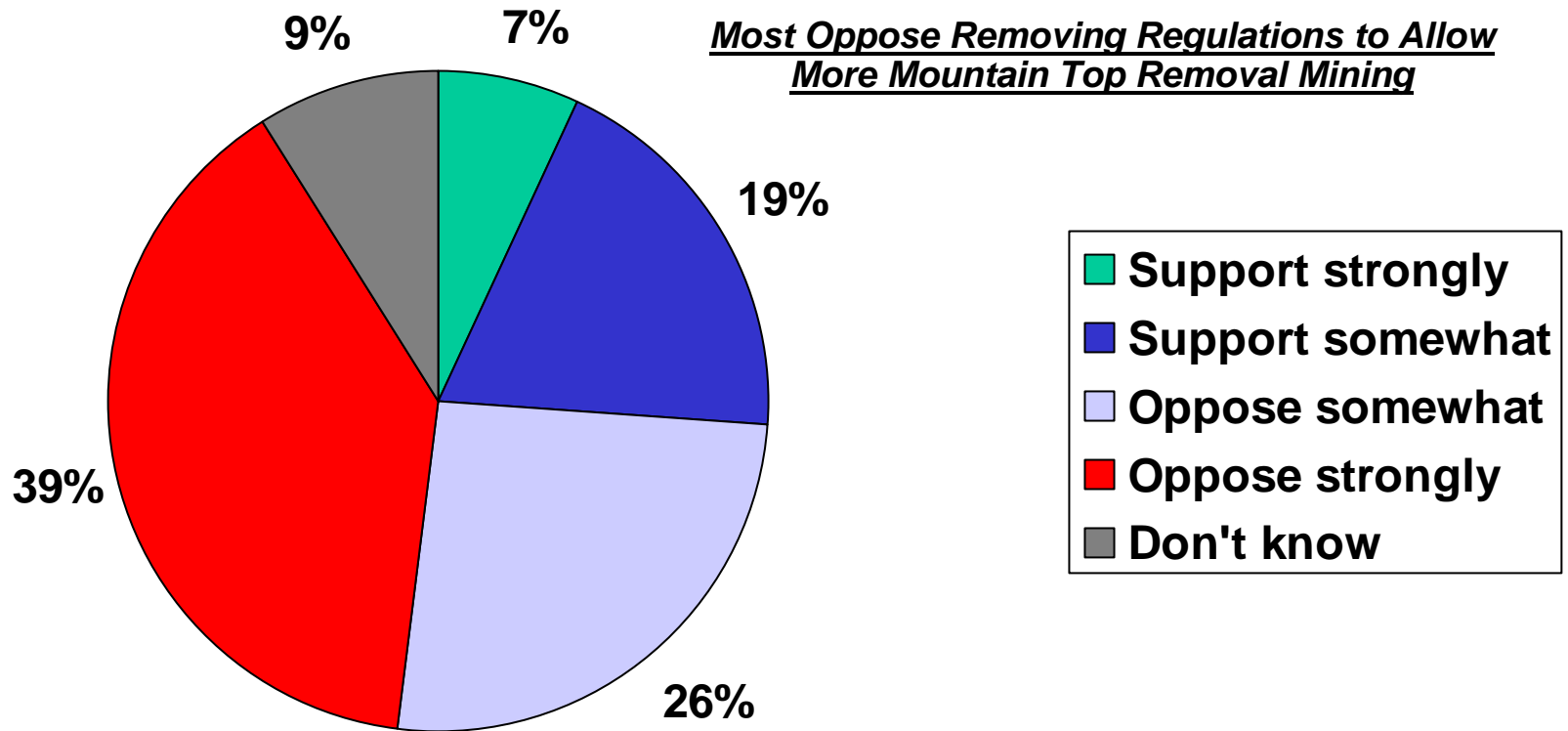
Base = Total respondents, 1,001 adults.

Bush Administration Proposal to Allow More Mountain Top Removal Mining

- About two-thirds of respondents (65%) oppose strongly (39%) or somewhat (26%) a proposal by the Bush Administration that would relax environmental regulations and permit more mountain top removal mining. Only a fourth (26%) support this idea.
 - More men than women (31% vs. 21%) support this idea.
 - The age group that is most opposed to the idea of relaxing environmental regulations for this purpose are those age 35-44 (75%).
 - Along partisan lines there are differences, although Republican support for the idea is weaker than Democratic opposition. Republicans split evenly between support and opposition, while Democrats are strongly opposed. Forty-two percent of Republicans support this idea compared to only 27% of Independents and 14% of Democrats. Among Democrats, 82% are opposed, 66% of Independents are opposed and 43% of Republicans are opposed.

Bush Administration Proposal to Allow More Mountain Top Removal Mining

P2: The Bush Administration is proposing to ease environmental regulations to permit wider use of "mountain top removal" coal mining in the U.S. Do you support or oppose this Bush Administration proposal? Would you say you support it strongly, support it somewhat, oppose it somewhat, or oppose it strongly?



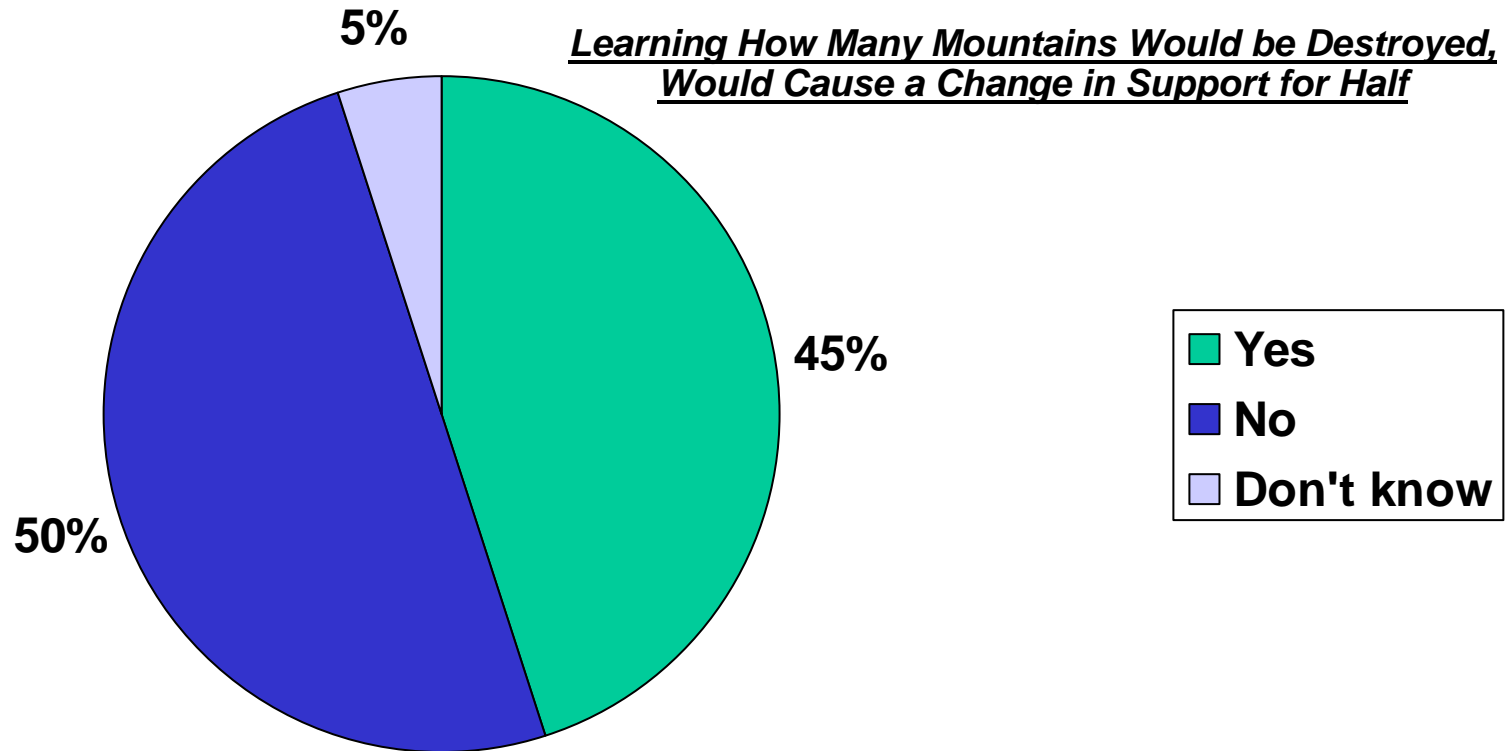
Base = Total respondents, 1,001 adults.

About Half of Supporters of Mountain Top Mining Would Change Their Opinion in Certain Circumstances

- Respondents who said they are in favor of a Bush Administration proposal to relax environmental regulations and allow more mountain top removal mining, were asked if their opinion would change if they knew that this regulatory move would result in the leveling of 700 mountains in the next 10 years. Just under half (45%) said their support would change in that instance. Half (50%) said it would not change their opinion.
 - Interestingly, there is no difference for this question by party identification.

About Half of Supporters of Mountain Top Mining Would Change Their Opinion in Certain Circumstances

P3: *Would your support for "mountain top removal" coal mining change if you knew that this regulatory move could result in leveling of 700 additional U.S. mountains over the next 10 years?*



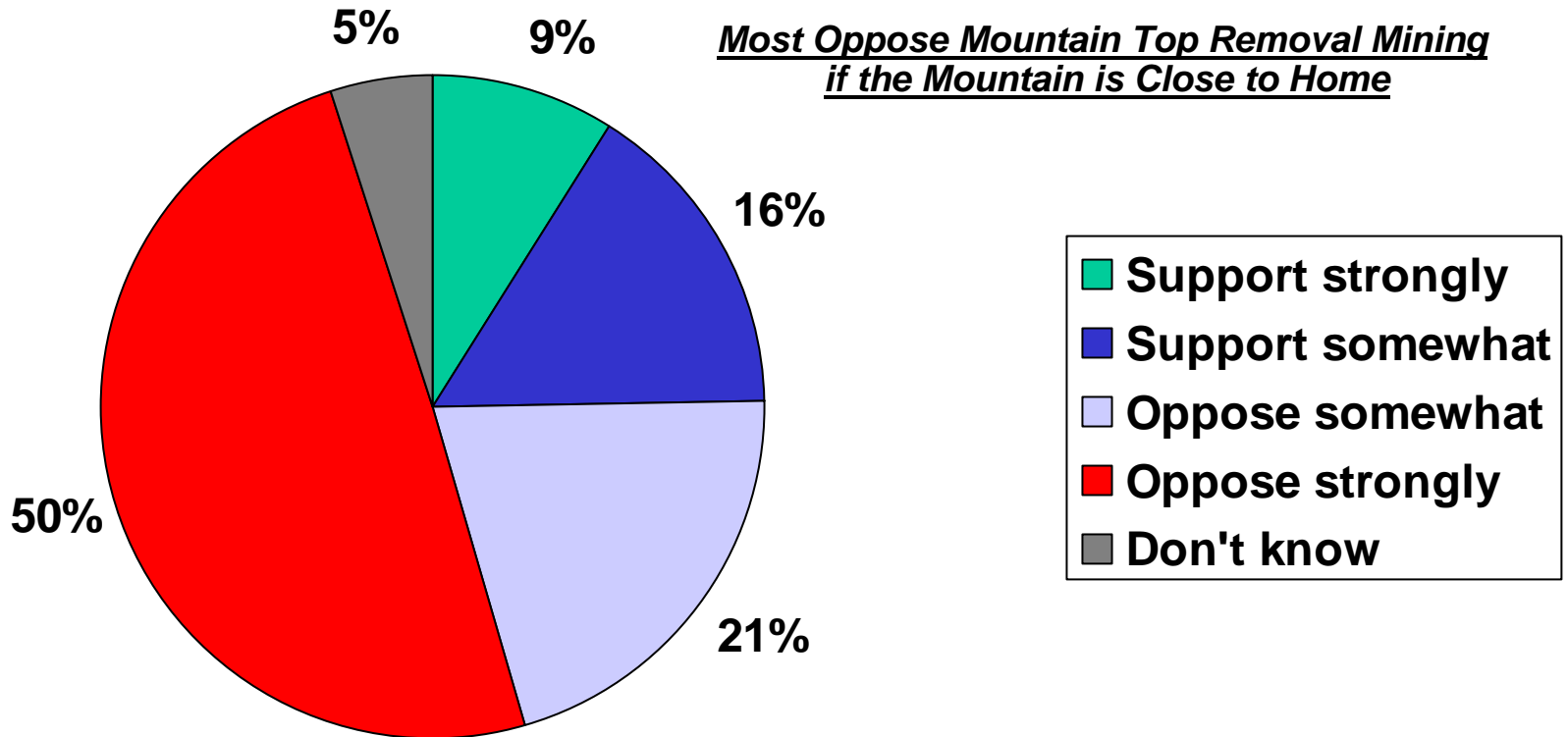
Base = Those who support Bush Administration proposal to permit wider use of mountain top removal coal mining. N=263.

Opposition is Stronger to Mountain Top Removal Mining if the Mountain is Close to Home

- About seven in 10 respondents (71%) would oppose mountain top removal mining if the mountain to be removed was within 50 miles of their home. About one-fourth (24%) would still support it in these circumstances.
 - Support for mountain top removal mining in this instance is stronger among men than women (29% vs. 20%) but it should be noted that a substantial majority of men and women still oppose it.
 - Support among Republicans is only 37%, more than half of them (57%) would oppose this type of mining so close to their home.
 - Among Democrats, opposition is decidedly strong, with 81% opposing this type of mining that close to home. Most Independents (68%) also oppose this.

Opposition is Stronger to Mountain Top Removal Mining if the Mountain is Close to Home

P4: Let's assume for the purpose of this next question that there is a mountain containing coal that is located within 50 miles of your own home. Regardless of how you answered earlier questions, would you support or oppose the use of "mountain top removal" coal mining for this mountain near your home? Would you say you support it strongly, support it somewhat, oppose it somewhat, or oppose it strongly?



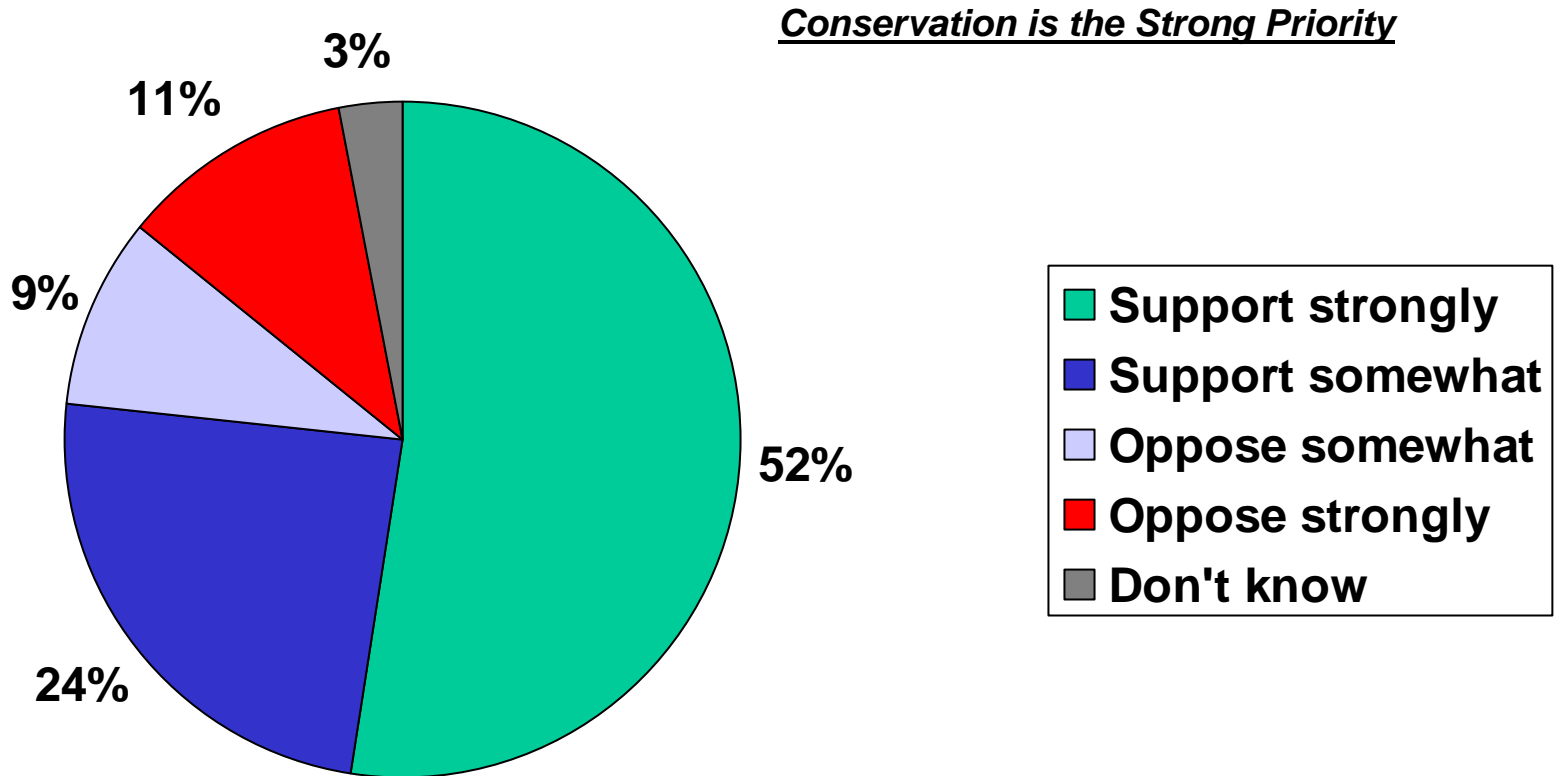
Base = Total respondents, 1,001 adults.

Which is the Priority – Conservation or Mountain Top Removal Mining?

- Respondents were then asked if they agreed or disagreed that the Bush Administration should focus on energy conservation efforts to reduce waste before worrying about relaxing environmental regulations to allow more mountain top mining. An overwhelming majority agreed that conservation should be the priority over mining (77%). More than half (52%) agreed strongly that the Administration should focus its efforts on conservation first. Only a fifth disagree that this should be the priority.
 - Women are more likely to agree with this than men (82% vs. 71%).
 - Younger respondents age 18-24 (84%) are also a lot more likely to agree with this than are those age 65 and over (63%).
 - Agreement is highest in the West compared to any other region (81%).
 - A majority of respondents from all three parties agree with this statement. Agreement is stronger among Democrats but still over half of Republicans agree. Eighty-seven percent of Democrats agree with this statement, compared to only 71% of Independents and 65% of Republicans.

Which is the Priority – Conservation or Mountain Top Removal Mining?

P5: As we have discussed, the Bush Administration is proposing to ease environmental regulations to permit wider use in the United States of “mountain top removal” coal mining. Do you agree with the following statement: “It would be better for the Bush Administration to concentrate first on energy conservation to reduce energy waste before resorting to more mountaintop removal coal mining.” Would you say you support it strongly, support it somewhat, oppose it somewhat, or oppose it strongly?



Base = Total respondents, 1,001 adults.

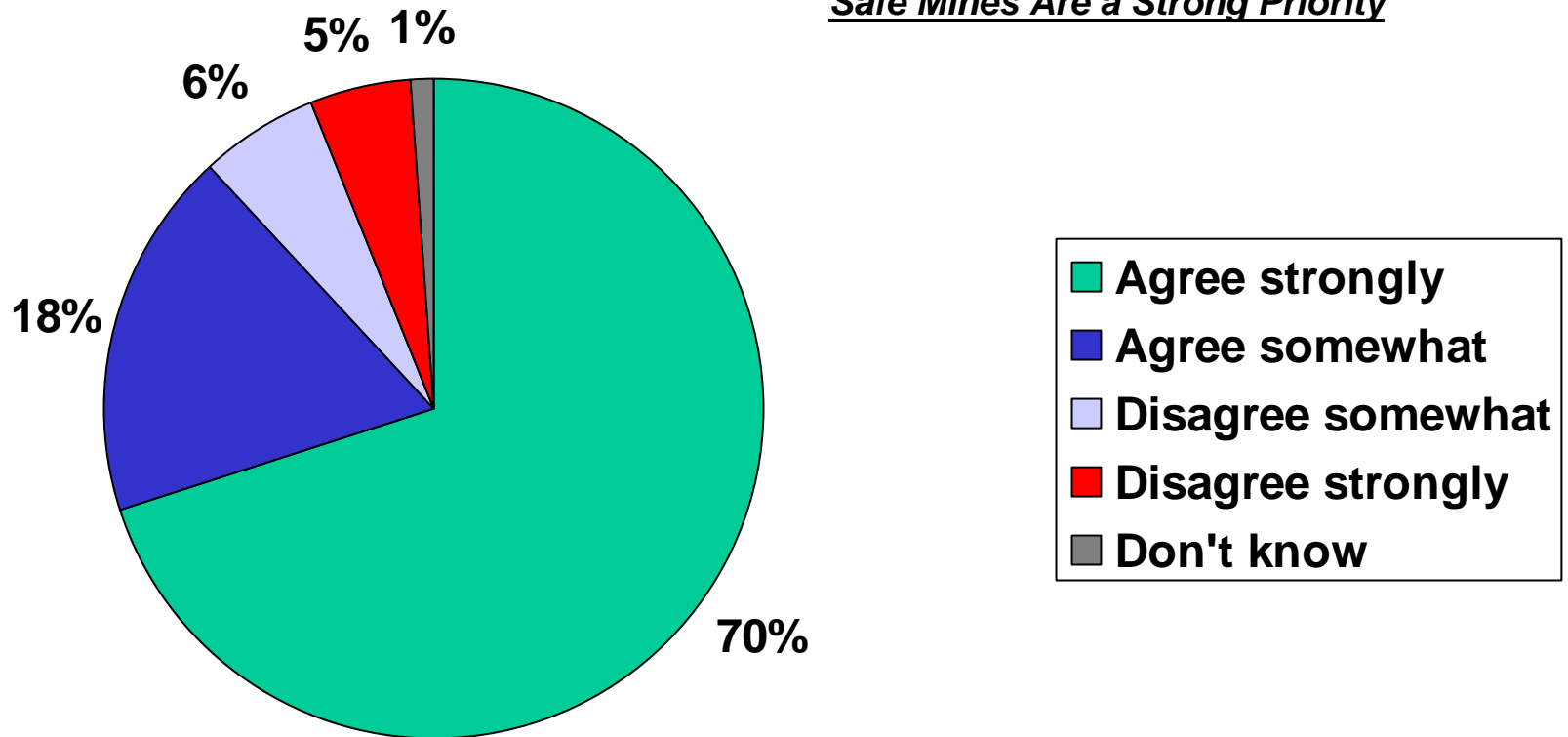
Mine Safety Should be a Priority Over Allowing More Mountain Top Removal Mining

- A majority of Americans (88%) agree that the safety of the mines and the communities around them should be the priority before allowing more types of new mines to be built. Only 11% did not think this was a priority.
 - Women are even more strongly in favor of this than are men (93% vs. 81%).
 - Along party lines Republicans (83%), Democrats (94%) and Independents (82%) all think the focus needs to be on mine safety before allowing new mines to be opened.

Mine Safety Should be a Priority Over Allowing More Mountain Top Removal Mining

P5: In view of the recent coal mine collapses and fatalities in Utah and Indiana, do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Before the United States puts in place new regulations to permit more coal mining, it should first make sure that coal mines and coal mining practices are safe for miners, nearby communities and the environment." Would you say you support it strongly, support it somewhat, oppose it somewhat, or oppose it strongly?

Safe Mines Are a Strong Priority



Base = Total respondents, 1,001 adults.

APPENDIX

RELIABILITY OF SURVEY PERCENTAGES

Results of any sample are subject to sampling variation. The magnitude of the variation is measurable and is affected by the number of interviews and the level of the percentages expressing the results.

The table below shows the possible sample variation that applies to percentage results reported herein. The chances are 95 in 100 that a survey result does not vary, plus or minus, by more than the indicated number of percentage points from the result that would be obtained if interviews had been conducted with all persons in the universe represented by the sample.

Size of Sample on Which Survey Results Are Based	Approximate Sampling Tolerances Applicable to Percentages At or Near These Levels				
	<u>10% or 90%</u>	<u>20% or 80%</u>	<u>30% or 70%</u>	<u>40% or 60%</u>	<u>50%</u>
1,000 interviews	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%
500 interviews	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%
250 interviews	4%	5%	6%	6%	6%
100 interviews	6%	8%	9%	10%	10%

Additional Sampling Tolerances for Samples of 1,000 Interviews

<u>9% or 91%</u> 2%	<u>8% or 92%</u> 2%	<u>7% or 93%</u> 2%	<u>6% or 94%</u> 1%	<u>5% or 95%</u> 1%
<u>4% or 96%</u> 1%	<u>3% or 97%</u> 1%	<u>2% or 98%</u> 1%	<u>1% or 99%</u> 2%	

SAMPLING TOLERANCES WHEN COMPARING TWO SAMPLES

Tolerances are also involved in the comparison of results from independent parts of the sample. A difference, in other words, must be of at least a certain number of percentage points to be considered statistically significant – that is not due to random chance. The table below is a guide to the sampling tolerances in percentage points applicable to such comparisons, based on a 95% confidence level.

Size of Samples Compared	Differences Required for Significance At or Near These Percentage Levels				
	10% or 90%	20% or 80%	30% or 70%	40% or 60%	50%
1,000 and 1,000	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%
1,000 and 500	3%	4%	5%	5%	5%
1,000 and 250	4%	6%	6%	7%	7%
1,000 and 100	6%	8%	9%	10%	10%
500 and 500	4%	5%	6%	6%	6%
500 and 250	5%	6%	7%	7%	8%
500 and 100	6%	9%	10%	11%	11%
250 and 250	5%	7%	8%	9%	9%
250 and 100	7%	9%	11%	11%	12%
100 and 100	8%	11%	13%	14%	14%

Topline Results of 1,001 Telephone Interviews Conducted with Adults, August 30-September 2, 2007

P1 Please tell me if you have heard of a coal mining industry practice known as “mountain top removal”, which involves the leveling of an entire mountain to get at coal and the filling in of nearby valleys and streams with the removed rock and soil from the mountain.
N=1,001

45% YES
54 NO
-- DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

P2 The Bush Administration is proposing to ease environmental regulations to permit wider use of “mountain top removal” coal mining in the U.S. Do you support or oppose this Bush Administration proposal?

Would you say you support it strongly, support it somewhat, oppose it somewhat, or oppose it strongly?

7% SUPPORT IT STRONGLY
19 SUPPORT IT SOMEWHAT
26 OPPOSE IT SOMEWHAT
39 OPPOSE IT STRONGLY
9 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

[ASK IF P2 (01-02)]

P3 Would your support for “mountain top removal” coal mining change if you knew that this regulatory move could result in the leveling of 700 additional U.S. mountains over the next 10 years?
N=263 who support the Administration proposal

45% YES
50 NO
5 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

ROTATE ASKING ORDER OF P4-P6

P4 Let's assume for the purposes of this next question that there is a mountain containing coal that is located within 50 miles of your own home. Regardless of how you answered earlier questions, would you support or oppose the use of “mountain top removal” coal mining for this mountain near your home?
N=1,001

Would you say you support it strongly, support it somewhat, oppose it somewhat, or oppose it strongly?

9% SUPPORT IT STRONGLY
16 SUPPORT IT SOMEWHAT
21 OPPOSE IT SOMEWHAT
50 OPPOSE IT STRONGLY
5 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

P5 As we discussed, the Bush Administration is proposing to ease environmental regulations to permit wider use in the United States of "mountain top removal" coal mining. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "It would be better for the Bush Administration to concentrate first on energy conservation to reduce energy waste before resorting to more mountaintop removal coal mining."

Would you say you agree strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat or disagree strongly?

52%	AGREE STRONGLY
24	AGREE SOMEWHAT
9	DISAGREE SOMEWHAT
11	DISAGREE STRONGLY
3	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

P6 In view of the recent coal mine collapses and fatalities in Utah and Indiana, do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Before the United States puts in place new regulations to permit more coal mining, it should first make sure that coal mines and coal mining practices are safe for miners, nearby communities and the environment."

Would you say you agree strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat or disagree strongly?

52%	AGREE STRONGLY
24	AGREE SOMEWHAT
9	DISAGREE SOMEWHAT
11	DISAGREE STRONGLY
3	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE