



PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

turning questions into answers

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: NEIL NEWHOUSE/PATRICK LANNE
SUBJECT: INDIANA SURVEY RESULTS
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Public Opinion Strategies completed a survey of 500 Republican voters in Indiana on behalf of an energy client from June 26-July 1, 2023. The survey was conducted on-line and has a credibility interval of +/- 5% in 95 out of 100 cases. The purpose of this memo is to review the key findings from the survey.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Hoosier Republicans know the manufacturing sector is critical to the health of the state's economy and express a high level of concern about the threat posed by China's and other countries' weaker environmental standards that lead to higher pollution.

Republican voters across the board – young and old, conservative and moderate, “Trumpers” as well as “non-Trumpers” – believe the federal government needs to do more to help American manufacturing remain competitive with global competitors. Hoosier Republicans overwhelmingly support policies, like the carbon pollution import fee, that level the playing field for American manufacturers and hold high polluting countries accountable for their contribution to climate change.

KEY FINDINGS

✓ **Republicans want the federal government to do more to help Indiana's manufacturers compete globally.**

Nearly every (92%) Hoosier Republican sees the state's manufacturing sector as either “extremely” (49%) or “very” important to the state's economy. That's why 67% of all Republicans – including wide majorities of every ideological and demographic subgroup – believe the federal government should do more to help Indiana manufacturers compete with global competition, while just 16% believe the federal government is “doing enough.”

✓ **High pollution policies help make China a threat to US economic security.**

Across several measures, Hoosier Republicans express concerns about US economic competitiveness. First, 94% of Republicans believe China is a serious threat to US economic security. Next, more than three-quarters of Republicans say the US is falling behind China in economic innovation and competitiveness (78%) while just 5% believe the US is ahead. Finally, nearly every (94%) Hoosier Republican believes China uses weak environmental laws and high pollution practices to gain an economic advantage over American manufacturers. These sentiments cut across every demographic, ideological and geographic subgroup in the poll, including Trump supporters and non-Trumpers.

✓ **Republicans support policies to level the playing field for American manufacturers.**

Given the results above, it is easy to see why wide majorities of Republican voters in the state support policies to penalize high polluting countries and create a more competitive environment for American manufacturers. Indeed, 87% of Hoosier Republicans – including strong majorities across every ideological subgroup – believe, *“the US federal government should enact policies that discourage the importation of foreign products made with higher levels of pollution and reward U.S. manufacturers for their cleaner production.”*

And, 84% of Republican voters – including 87% of very conservative Republicans – support placing an import fee on countries with high levels of pollution like China and Russia. In fact, nearly every Republican voter (90%) agrees with the statement, *“high polluting countries like China and Russia need to be held accountable for their contribution to climate change.”* It is a near consensus view among Republicans across all demographic, ideological and geographic lines.

✓ **The carbon pollution import fee is very popular with Republican voters.**

GOP voters were then asked if they would favor or oppose a proposal in Congress, *“which would charge a fee on goods imported into the United States from foreign countries based on the amount of carbon pollution they produce when making those goods?”*

Fully, 79% of Republicans – including 79% of very conservatives and 85% of self-identified “Trump Republicans” – support the proposal. Wide majorities of Republicans across every demographic and geographic subgroup support the proposal.

In addition, more than three-quarters (78%) of Hoosier Republicans indicated they would be “more likely” to vote for a candidate who supported this plan while only 8% would be “less likely” to vote for that candidate.