



WASHINGTON, DC - 202-548-2680  
JACKSONVILLE, FL - 904-261-2444  
WWW.MASON-DIXON.COM

## **AMERICANS SUPPORT REDUCING NATURAL GAS LEAKS ON FEDERAL LAND OPPOSE WEAKENING REGULATIONS THAT REQUIRE IT**

**Adults nationwide support efforts to reduce natural gas leaks on federal and tribal lands, a natural resource which they see as property of American taxpayers.**

**Overall, 61% support state and federal laws to minimize leaks through flaring and other energy industry practices and 73% favor federal regulations that require reductions in gas leaks. Support for minimization and reduction was strong across the country.**

**There is bi-partisan support for requiring energy companies to invest in technology to meet stricter requirements if they want to extract gas on federal and tribal lands. Nationwide, 90% of Democrats, 63% of Republicans and 79% of Independents believe that firms should be required to invest in better technology. This is because citizens believe the natural gas on public lands belongs to taxpayers (61%) and that wasting it is also a waste of their tax money (66%).**

**People also voiced concern about the environmental and health risks associated with natural gas leaks. Nationwide, 76% expressed at least some concern about the pollutant effect of dangerous gases, 77% were concerned about potential health risks and 73% said they were at least somewhat concerned about the long term effect that gas leaks may have on climate change.**

**Weakening current federal regulations is strongly opposed. Nationwide, 60% were opposed to reducing requirements on energy companies and only 15% were supportive. Just 8% of Democrats supported weakening federal regulations, as did only 22% of Republicans and 15% of Independents.**

**QUESTION: Do you support or oppose state and federal laws designed to minimize the amount of natural gas that is wasted through leaks and other industry practices, such as venting and flaring?**

	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
<b>STATE</b>	61%	7%	32%
<u>REGION</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Northeast	65%	5%	30%
Midwest	65%	6%	29%
South	57%	6%	37%
West	58%	12%	30%
Pacific Coast	61%	9%	30%
<u>SEX</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Men	60%	5%	35%
Women	62%	10%	28%
<u>AGE</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
<50	58%	8%	34%
50+	61%	6%	33%
<u>PARTY ID</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Democrat	77%	3%	20%
Republican	48%	12%	40%
Independent	65%	7%	28%
Other/None	46%	9%	45%

**QUESTION: Current federal regulations require oil and gas companies operating on federal or tribal land to reduce the amount of natural gas that is wasted through leaks and other industry practices. Do you support or oppose these regulations?**

	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
<b>STATE</b>	73%	7%	20%
<u>REGION</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Northeast	78%	4%	18%
Midwest	76%	7%	17%
South	71%	7%	22%
West	69%	11%	20%
Pacific Coast	73%	6%	21%
<u>SEX</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Men	76%	4%	20%
Women	71%	9%	20%
<u>AGE</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
<50	69%	7%	24%
50+	77%	6%	16%
<u>PARTY ID</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Democrat	88%	2%	10%
Republican	59%	12%	29%
Independent	79%	6%	15%
Other/None	60%	8%	32%

**QUESTION: Some energy companies have changed practices and invested in technology to reduce leaks and the waste of natural gas, while other companies say the regulations and cost are too much of a burden.**

**Do believe that all energy companies extracting natural gas on federal or tribal lands should or should not be required to invest money in order to meet the current legal requirements to reduce leaks and waste?**

	<u>SHOULD</u>	<u>SHOULD NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
<b>STATE</b>	76%	6%	18%
<b><u>REGION</u></b>	<b><u>SHOULD</u></b>	<b><u>SHOULD NOT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT SURE</u></b>
Northeast	80%	3%	17%
Midwest	79%	7%	14%
South	71%	8%	21%
West	74%	8%	18%
Pacific Coast	79%	5%	16%
<b><u>SEX</u></b>	<b><u>SHOULD</u></b>	<b><u>SHOULD NOT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT SURE</u></b>
Men	77%	4%	19%
Women	76%	8%	16%
<b><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>SHOULD</u></b>	<b><u>SHOULD NOT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT SURE</u></b>
<50	73%	7%	20%
50+	79%	5%	16%
<b><u>PARTY ID</u></b>	<b><u>SHOULD</u></b>	<b><u>SHOULD NOT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT SURE</u></b>
Democrat	90%	2%	8%
Republican	63%	13%	24%
Independent	79%	5%	16%
Other/None	65%	8%	27%

**QUESTION: Leaks of natural gas into the atmosphere releases a number of pollutants, including methane, hydrogen sulfide and benzene. How concerned are you about this? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned?**

	<u>VERY</u>	<u>SOMEWHAT</u>	<u>NOT TOO</u>	<u>NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
<b>STATE</b>	42%	34%	12%	5%	7%
<b><u>REGION</u></b>	<b><u>VERY</u></b>	<b><u>SOMEWHAT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT TOO</u></b>	<b><u>NOT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT SURE</u></b>
Northeast	40%	41%	9%	4%	6%
Midwest	47%	31%	11%	6%	5%
South	39%	32%	15%	5%	9%
West	35%	34%	18%	5%	8%
Pacific Coast	46%	35%	7%	5%	7%
<b><u>SEX</u></b>	<b><u>VERY</u></b>	<b><u>SOMEWHAT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT TOO</u></b>	<b><u>NOT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT SURE</u></b>
Men	48%	34%	7%	3%	8%
Women	35%	34%	17%	8%	6%
<b><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>VERY</u></b>	<b><u>SOMEWHAT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT TOO</u></b>	<b><u>NOT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT SURE</u></b>
<50	43%	33%	12%	4%	8%
50+	42%	35%	11%	5%	7%
<b><u>PARTY ID</u></b>	<b><u>VERY</u></b>	<b><u>SOMEWHAT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT TOO</u></b>	<b><u>NOT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT SURE</u></b>
Democrat	59%	31%	5%	1%	4%
Republican	16%	41%	24%	11%	8%
Independent	41%	35%	14%	5%	5%
Other/None	44%	30%	8%	5%	13%

**QUESTION: People exposed to leaks of natural gas into the atmosphere can have an increased chance of getting cancer or experience other serious health issues. How concerned are you about this? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned?**

	<u>VERY</u>	<u>SOMEWHAT</u>	<u>NOT TOO</u>	<u>NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
<b>STATE</b>	50%	27%	12%	5%	6%
<b><u>REGION</u></b>	<b><u>VERY</u></b>	<b><u>SOMEWHAT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT TOO</u></b>	<b><u>NOT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT SURE</u></b>
Northeast	54%	28%	12%	3%	3%
Midwest	51%	26%	13%	5%	5%
South	50%	24%	13%	6%	7%
West	45%	26%	14%	8%	7%
Pacific Coast	51%	30%	6%	6%	7%
<b><u>SEX</u></b>	<b><u>VERY</u></b>	<b><u>SOMEWHAT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT TOO</u></b>	<b><u>NOT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT SURE</u></b>
Men	60%	25%	7%	2%	6%
Women	41%	28%	16%	8%	7%
<b><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>VERY</u></b>	<b><u>SOMEWHAT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT TOO</u></b>	<b><u>NOT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT SURE</u></b>
<50	52%	24%	11%	5%	8%
50+	51%	28%	12%	4%	5%
<b><u>PARTY ID</u></b>	<b><u>VERY</u></b>	<b><u>SOMEWHAT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT TOO</u></b>	<b><u>NOT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT SURE</u></b>
Democrat	66%	27%	4%	1%	2%
Republican	27%	32%	24%	10%	7%
Independent	51%	28%	12%	5%	4%
Other/None	54%	19%	10%	6%	11%

**QUESTION: Some experts feel that leaks of natural gas into the atmosphere can have a significant impact on long term climate change. How concerned are you about this? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned?**

	<u>VERY</u>	<u>SOMEWHAT</u>	<u>NOT TOO</u>	<u>NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
<b>STATE</b>	47%	26%	11%	9%	7%
<b><u>REGION</u></b>	<b><u>VERY</u></b>	<b><u>SOMEWHAT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT TOO</u></b>	<b><u>NOT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT SURE</u></b>
Northeast	51%	30%	9%	7%	3%
Midwest	50%	28%	9%	7%	6%
South	44%	24%	14%	10%	8%
West	37%	28%	15%	12%	8%
Pacific Coast	55%	22%	7%	9%	7%
<b><u>SEX</u></b>	<b><u>VERY</u></b>	<b><u>SOMEWHAT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT TOO</u></b>	<b><u>NOT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT SURE</u></b>
Men	55%	26%	8%	5%	6%
Women	40%	26%	14%	13%	7%
<b><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>VERY</u></b>	<b><u>SOMEWHAT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT TOO</u></b>	<b><u>NOT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT SURE</u></b>
<50	49%	24%	11%	8%	8%
50+	48%	29%	10%	8%	5%
<b><u>PARTY ID</u></b>	<b><u>VERY</u></b>	<b><u>SOMEWHAT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT TOO</u></b>	<b><u>NOT</u></b>	<b><u>NOT SURE</u></b>
Democrat	71%	22%	3%	1%	3%
Republican	16%	32%	21%	22%	9%
Independent	47%	27%	12%	9%	5%
Other/None	48%	25%	10%	6%	11%

**QUESTION: Do feel that natural gas that is located under federal lands is or is not the property of American taxpayers?**

	<u>IS</u>	<u>IS NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
<b>STATE</b>	61%	10%	29%
<u>REGION</u>	<u>IS</u>	<u>IS NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
Northeast	58%	11%	31%
Midwest	66%	9%	25%
South	59%	13%	28%
West	59%	8%	33%
Pacific Coast	61%	8%	31%
<u>SEX</u>	<u>IS</u>	<u>IS NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
Men	53%	12%	35%
Women	69%	9%	22%
<u>AGE</u>	<u>IS</u>	<u>IS NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
<50	54%	12%	34%
50+	64%	11%	25%
<u>PARTY ID</u>	<u>IS</u>	<u>IS NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
Democrat	60%	12%	28%
Republican	61%	11%	28%
Independent	69%	9%	22%
Other/None	48%	10%	42%



**QUESTION: Do feel that when private companies waste a significant amount of natural gas extracted from federal lands that it is or is not also a waste of taxpayer's money?**

	<u>IS</u>	<u>IS NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
<b>STATE</b>	66%	10%	24%

<u>REGION</u>	<u>IS</u>	<u>IS NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
Northeast	64%	11%	25%
Midwest	68%	10%	22%
South	64%	11%	25%
West	65%	11%	24%
Pacific Coast	69%	8%	23%

<u>SEX</u>	<u>IS</u>	<u>IS NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
Men	68%	5%	27%
Women	64%	15%	21%

<u>AGE</u>	<u>IS</u>	<u>IS NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
<50	63%	10%	27%
50+	69%	9%	22%

<u>PARTY ID</u>	<u>IS</u>	<u>IS NOT</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
Democrat	74%	6%	20%
Republican	55%	17%	28%
Independent	72%	10%	18%
Other/None	57%	9%	34%

**QUESTION: Some members of Congress want to weaken federal regulations on oil & gas companies by lowering requirements for them to reduce leaks and waste of natural gas on federal and tribal lands. Do you support or oppose this proposed change to current regulatory standards?**

	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
<b>STATE</b>	15%	60%	25%
<u>REGION</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Northeast	15%	63%	22%
Midwest	15%	61%	24%
South	15%	56%	29%
West	16%	58%	26%
Pacific Coast	14%	65%	21%
<u>SEX</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Men	12%	62%	26%
Women	17%	59%	24%
<u>AGE</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
<50	15%	57%	28%
50+	14%	62%	24%
<u>PARTY ID</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Democrat	8%	82%	10%
Republican	22%	40%	38%
Independent	15%	66%	19%
Other/None	17%	44%	39%

## HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED

**This poll was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc. of Jacksonville, Florida from February 1 through February 4, 2017. A total of 1,027 adults nationwide completed this survey on-line.**

**Those who completed the poll were randomly contacted by e-mail from a data base. They then responded to a web-link to the survey home page. Quotas were assigned to reflect population by region. The margin for error is  $\pm 3.1\%$ .**

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### **PARTY IDENTIFICATION:**

Democrat	292 (28%)
Republican	217 (21%)
Independent	307 (30%)
Other/None	211 (21%)

### **AGE:**

18-34	195 (18%)
35-49	242 (24%)
50-64	263 (26%)
65+	163 (16%)
Refused	164 (16%)

### **SEX:**

Male	525 (51%)
Female	502 (49%)

### **REGION:**

Northeast	203 (20%)
Midwest	202 (20%)
South	307 (30%)
West	131 (13%)
Pacific Coast	184 (18%)