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Nationwide poll shows Americans want a strong treaty at Copenhagen

Majority supports a legally binding climate deal that peaks emissions by 2015

A new poll commissioned by global campaign network Avaaz.org in the middle of the Copenhagen climate negotiations shows widespread American support for the Obama administration to lead the world to a real climate deal in Copenhagen.

"This poll shows that the majority of Americans want a real deal -- an ambitious and binding global climate treaty that peaks global emissions by 2015," said Ricken Patel, Executive Director of Avaaz.org.

The poll showed a majority of Americans support a legally binding climate treaty that peaks emissions by 2015. By a two-to-one margin (61% in favor, 33% opposed), Americans want the US to sign a treaty in Copenhagen that peaks global emissions by 2015. Moreover, a majority (53%) want that treaty to be legally binding, with only 40% opposed.

"Americans know who the villains are in the fight against climate change. Sixty-four percent of Americans believe that oil and coal companies have too much influence over Congress", said Patel.

The poll showed that 64% of Americans say that oil and coal companies have too much influence on Congress and decisions on climate change policies, with only 11% saying they have too little influence and 19% saying the right amount of influence. Obama's base of strong Democrats feels that way even more strongly, with 74% saying too much influence -- but over two-thirds of independents (68%) agree, and even a majority of strong Republicans (52%) agree.

"Americans are fully aware that political promises are not sufficient in the fight against climate change -- only 6% of Americans trust world leaders fully to cut emissions without a legally binding treaty," added Patel.

According to the poll, only 6% of Americans say they have "a lot" of trust in world leaders to reduce emissions without a legally binding climate treaty, and only an additional 20% say they have "some" trust -- with fully 71% saying they have very little trust or none at all (26% saying "very little" and a stunning 45% saying "none at all").

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Avaaz.org is a global campaign network of 3.6 million citizens who take action for a more just and peaceful world. Avaaz means 'voice' in many languages. www.avaaz.org

NOTE FROM POLLSTERS ON SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Lake Research Partners designed this survey that was administered by Caravan in an omnibus survey conducted by telephone using professional interviewers. The survey reached a total of 1,014 adults 18 years of age and older nationwide in the continental United States. The survey was conducted from December 3-6, 2009.

All Caravan interviews are conducted using Opinion Research Corporation's computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system. The most advanced probability sampling techniques are employed in the selection of households for telephone interviewing. Opinion Research Corporation utilizes an unrestricted random sampling procedure that controls the amount of serial bias found in systematic sampling to generate its random-digit-dial sample. The sample is fully replicated and stratified by region. Only one interview is conducted per household. All sample numbers selected are subject to up to four attempts to complete an interview. Completed interviews were weighted by four variables: age, sex, party identification, and race, to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the total population, 18 years of age and older.

In interpreting survey results, all sample surveys are subject to possible sampling error; that is, the results of a survey may differ from those that would be obtained if the entire population were interviewed. The size of the sampling error depends upon both the total number of respondents in the survey and the percentage distribution of responses to a particular question. For example, if 50% of respondents answered "yes" to a particular question, we can be 95% confident that the true percentage will fall within +/- 3.1 percentage points of this percentage. The table below represents the estimated sampling error for different percentage distributions of responses. Of course, the sampling error for subgroups is greater

Sampling Error by Percentage (at 95 in 100 confidence level)

	PERCENTAGES NEAR								
SAMPLE SIZE	<u>10</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>90</u>
1000	1.9	2.5	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.5	1.9
850	2.0	2.7	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.7	2.0
800	2.1	2.8	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.2	2.8	2.1
700	2.2	3.0	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.0	2.2
600	2.4	3.2	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.2	2.4
500	2.6	3.5	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.0	3.5	2.6
400	2.9	3.9	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.5	3.9	2.9
350	3.1	4.2	4.8	5.1	5.2	5.1	4.8	4.2	3.1