



New England Energy Alliance

Prepared by
Opinion Dynamics Corporation

April 2007

Methodology

- The telephone survey was performed for NEEA by Opinion Dynamics of Cambridge, MA as a follow-up to one fielded in November 2005
- Interviewing was conducted between March 19 -25 of 600 registered voters proportionately distributed through out New England
- The margin of error is +/- 4%

What do you think is the single most important issue facing New England today?

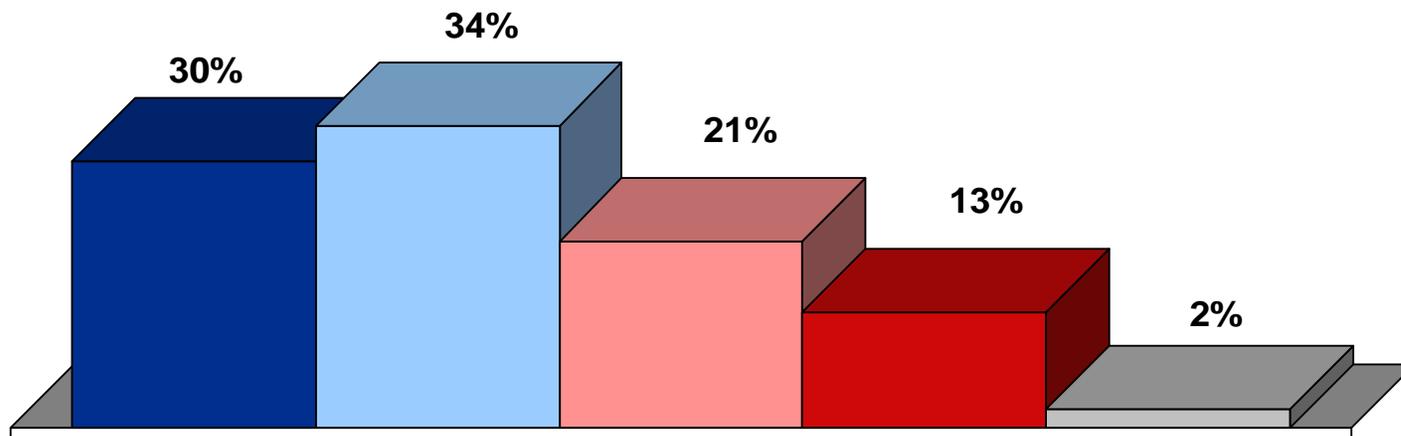
(Economy/Jobs)	22%
(Taxes/Government Spending)	13
(High gas, oil & electricity prices)	12
(Health care concerns)	12
War/Iraq	8
(Environmental issues)	6
(Housing costs)	5
Education	3
(Other)	
(Not sure/Refused)	10

Thinking specifically about energy issues now, what do you think is the single most important energy-related issue facing New England today?

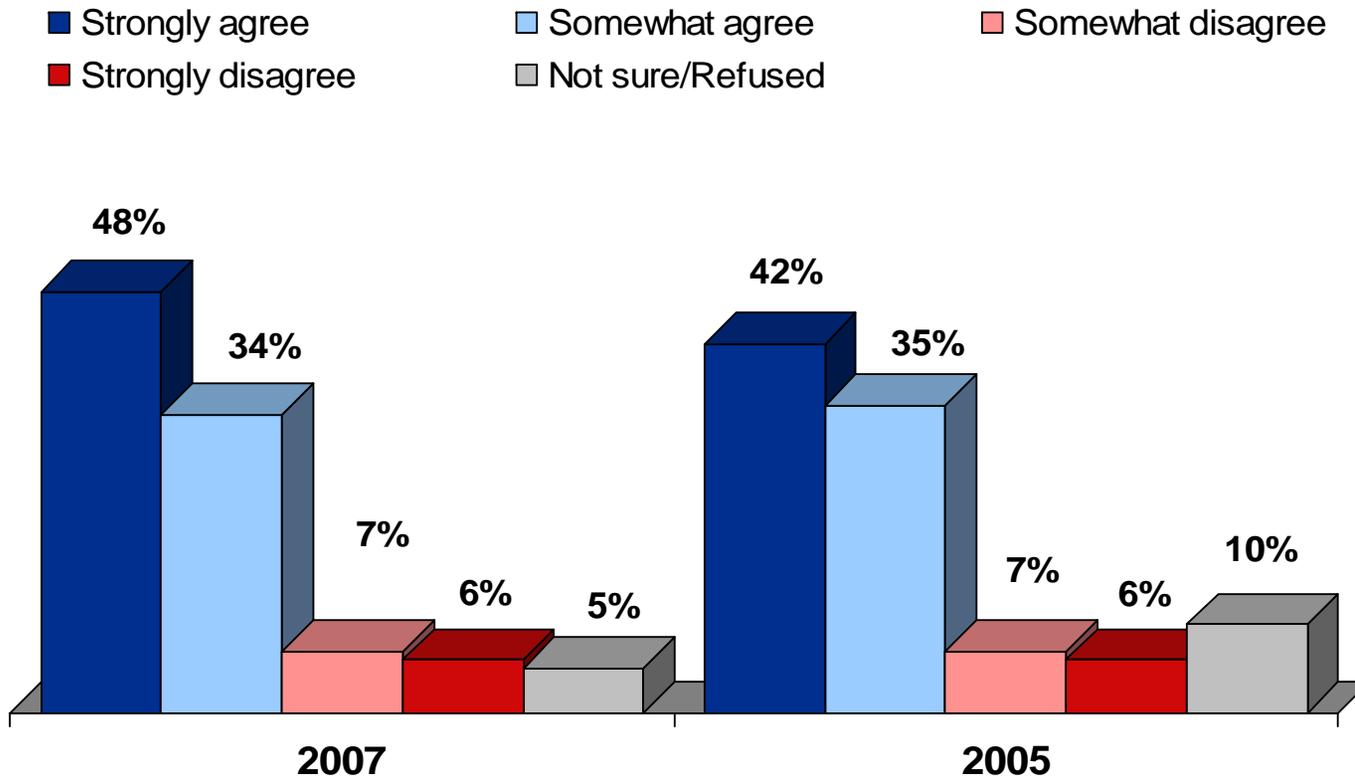
	2007	2005
(Gas prices)	34%	41%
(High cost—general)	23	27
(Electricity shortages)	9	3
(Global Warming/ Greenhouse)	7	na
(Unreliable supply)	6	10
(General environmental concerns)	5	5
(Alternate fuels/sources)	4	3
(Oil dependency)	2	1
(Other)	2	5
(Not sure/Refused)	8	4

How concerned are you that in the next five years the New England region may not have enough electricity to meet our electricity needs?

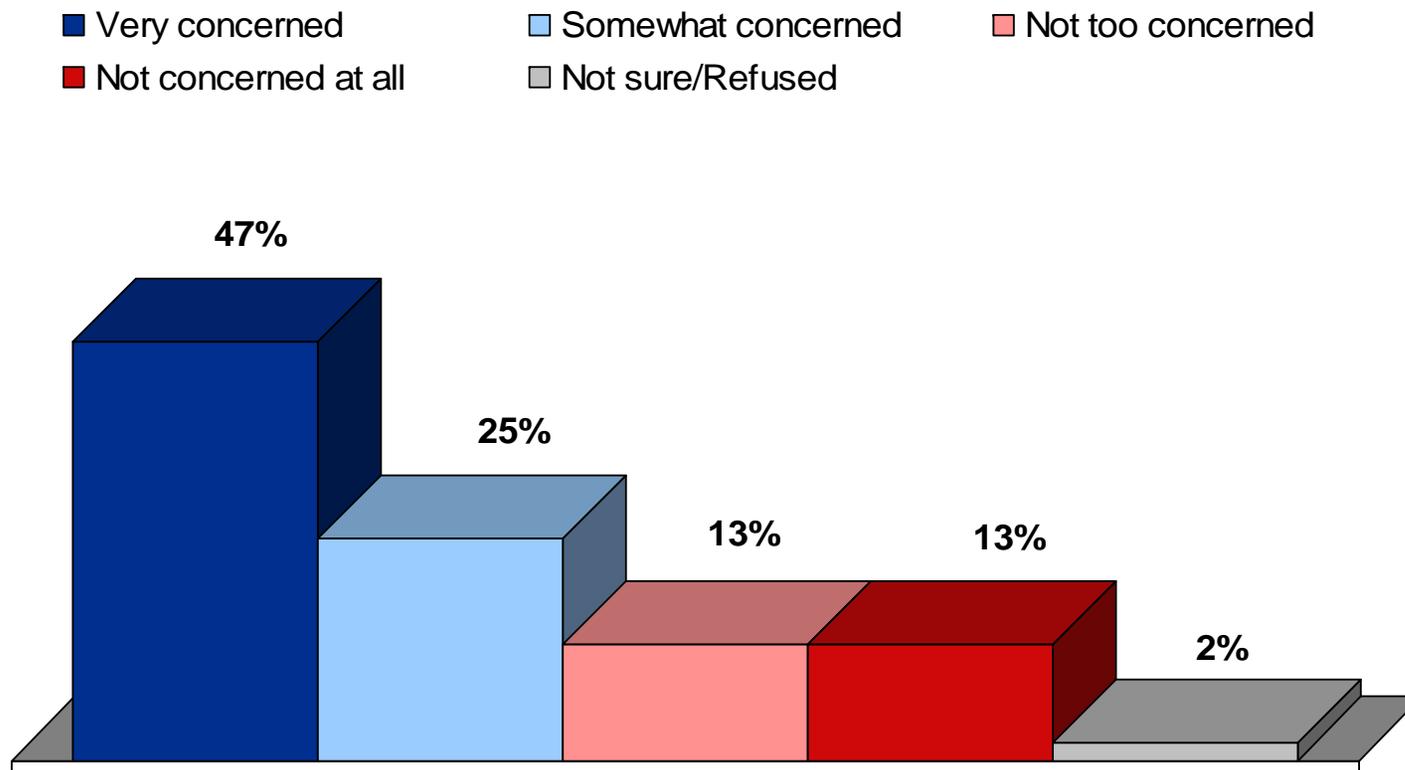
- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not too concerned
- Not concerned at all
- Not sure/Refused



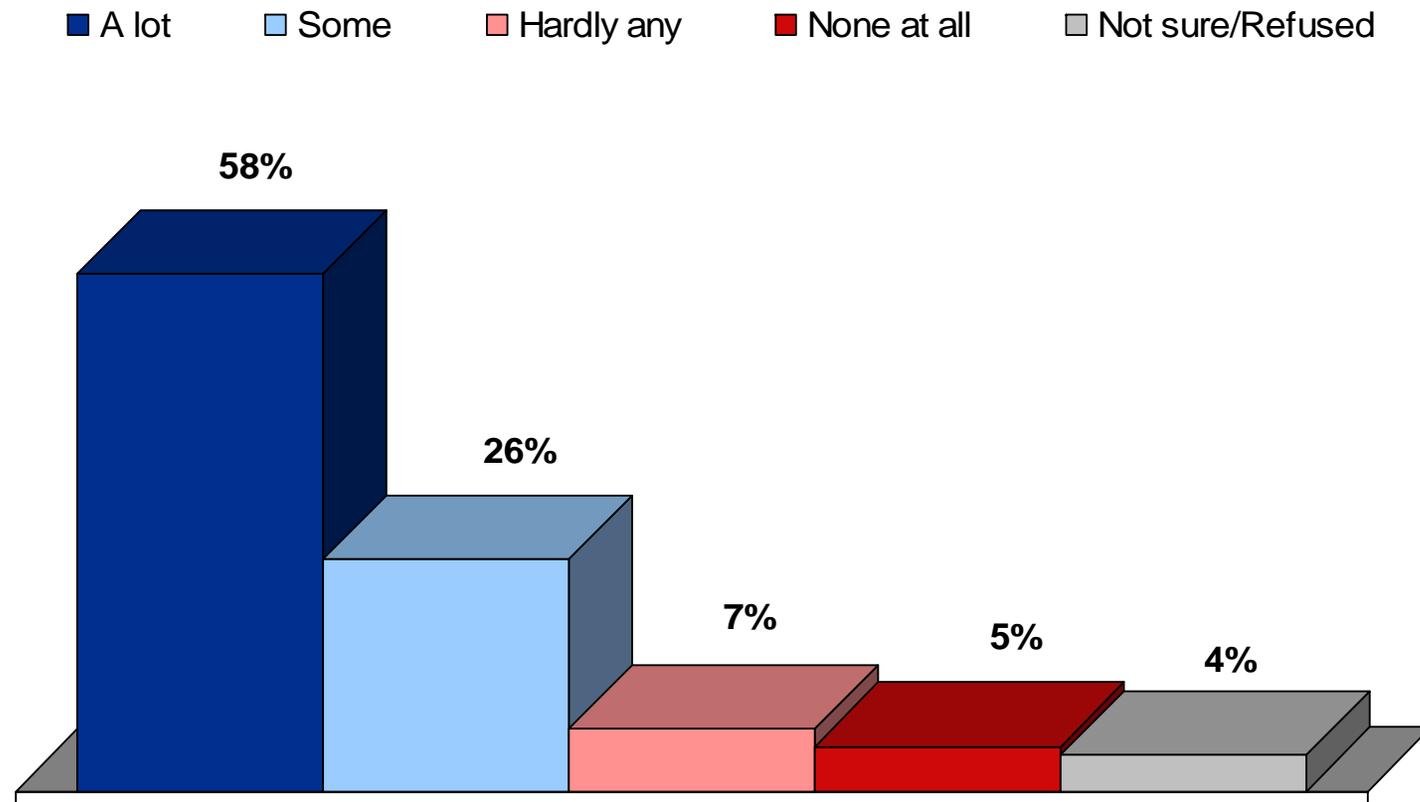
A variety of leading experts are expressing increased concern that our region will soon be facing an energy supply problem and that our energy infrastructure badly needs new investment. These experts also warn that we need to pursue a range of new energy supply options—from new nuclear power plants to renewable energy development like wind power—while also continuing to operate all of our existing generating facilities. In general, do you agree or disagree with this view?



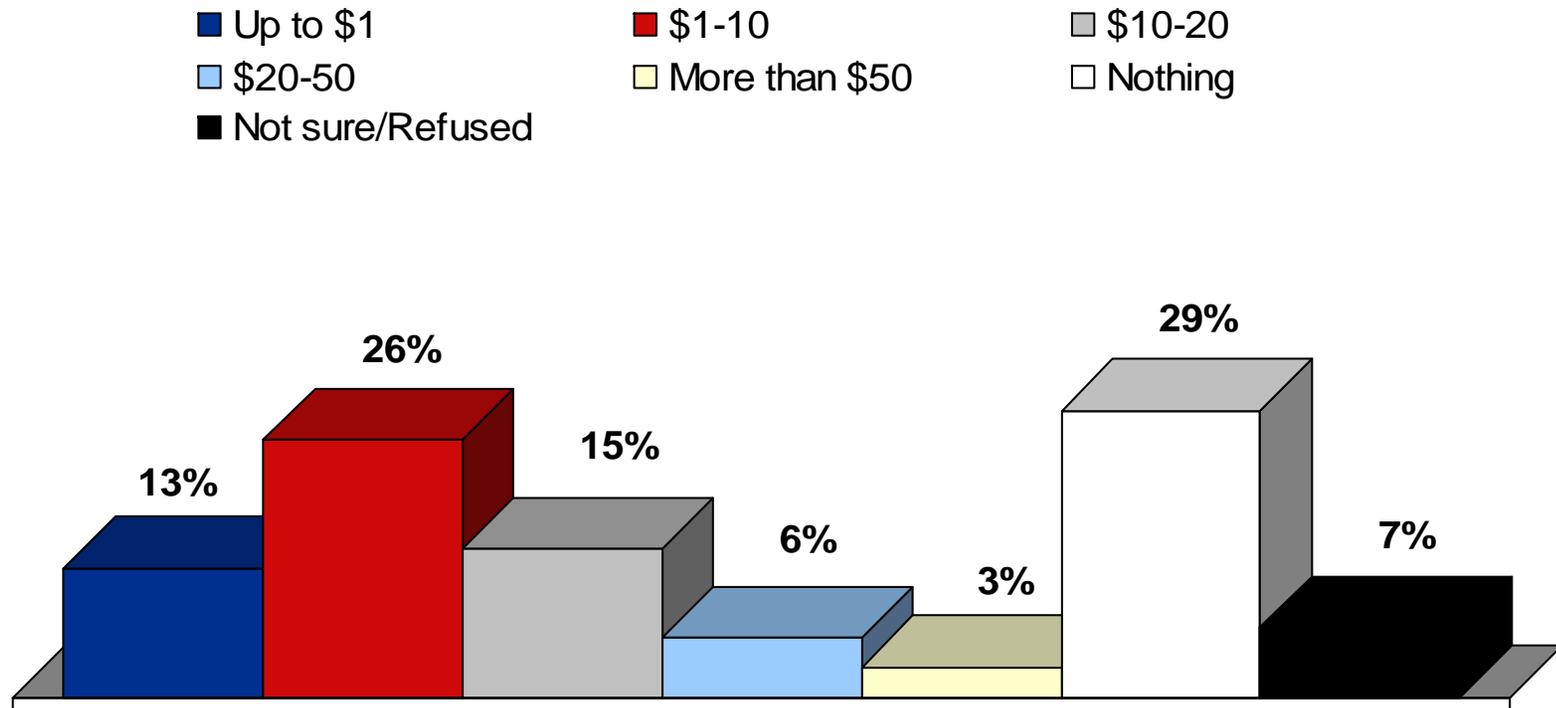
One topic that has been discussed a lot lately is global warming or climate change. In general, how concerned are you about the effects of global warming?



How much do you think can be done by energy companies, utilities and state governments to help limit emissions of carbon dioxide from power plants—emissions that are believed to contribute to global warming?

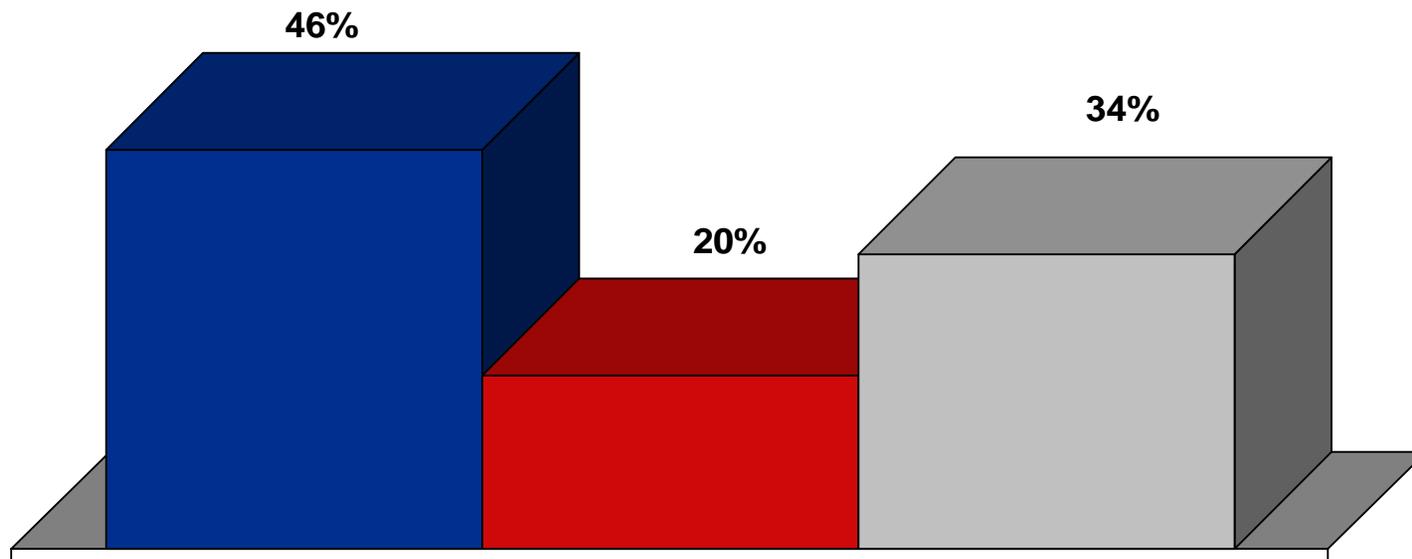


About how much extra per month would you be willing to pay on your electric bill to support utility and government efforts to limit the effects of global warming by reducing carbon dioxide emission from power plants?



As far as you know, has the electric utility industry in your state been deregulated, or not?

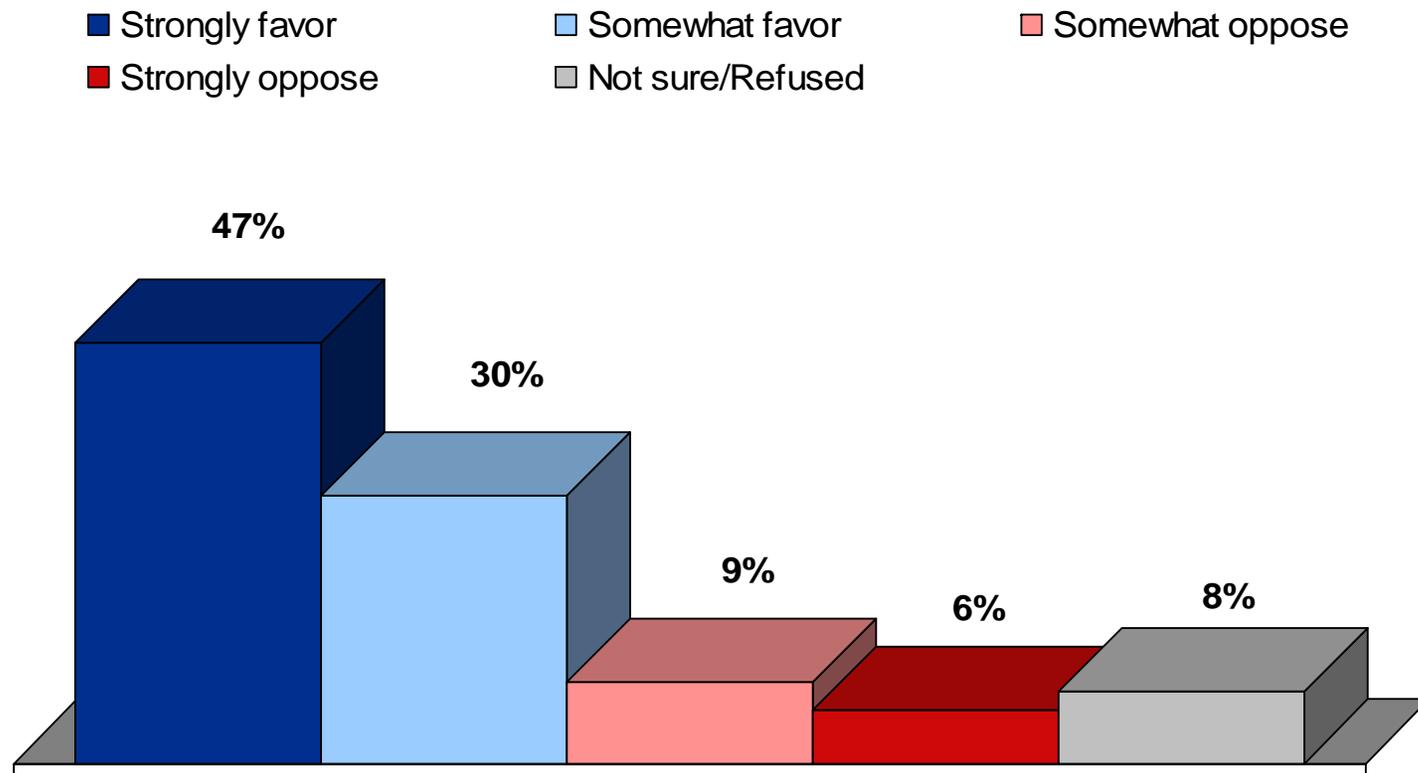
■ Yes, has been deregulated ■ No, has not been deregulated ■ (Not sure/Refused)



As far as you know, what does it mean when the electric utility industry in a state is deregulated?

	2007	2005
(Different companies can produce and deliver electricity)	28%	19%
(Competition)	24	23
(Consumers have a choice)	14	14
Privatization/No government controls	6	2
Prices will be raised	2	3
Prices will fall	1	-
Consumers will have less choice	1	-
Prices will be affected	-	6
(Other)	2	1
(Not sure/Refused)	26	31

In general, do you strongly favor this overall concept of consumer choice in the purchase of electricity, somewhat favor it, somewhat oppose it, or strongly oppose it?

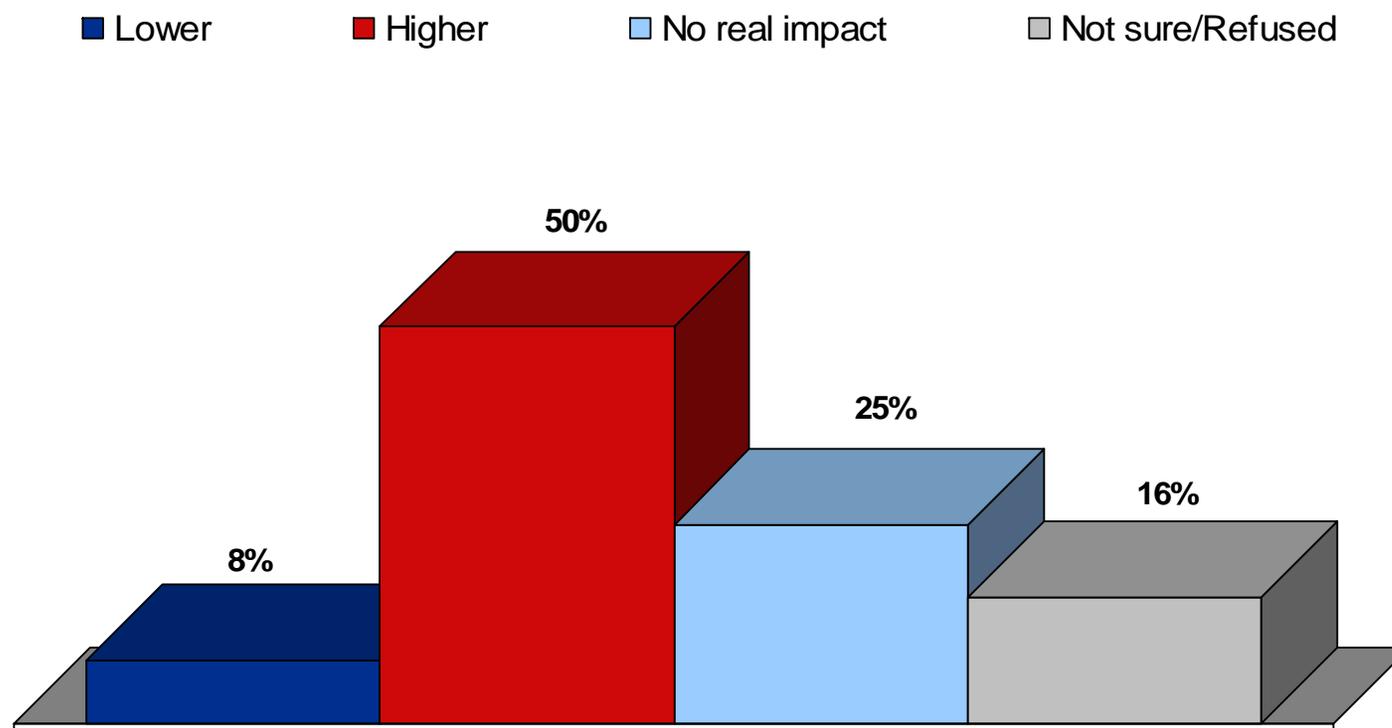


Specifically, why do you feel that way?

	Favor	Oppose
Competition is good/good for consumers	27%	1%
Choice is good/good for consumers	25	2
Prices will lower/not go up	25	4
It won't work/need regulation	1	27
Keep government out/private enterprise	5	3
Prices will go up	1	17
Choose alternate sources/help environment	2	2
Improve services	2	-
(Other)	9	19
(Not sure/Refused)	18	25

(Asked of those in MA, ME, CT, NH and RI)

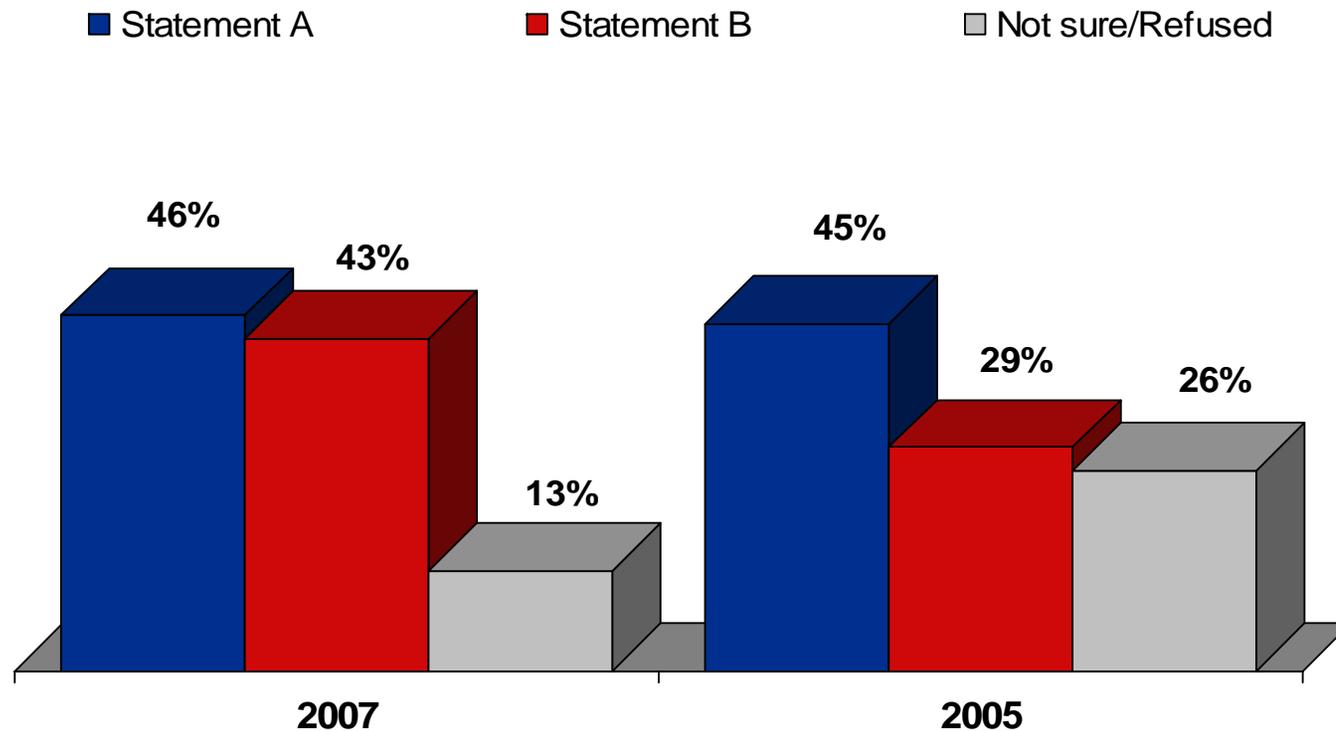
Your state and most other New England states deregulated electricity generation within the past seven years. In your opinion, has deregulation led to lower or higher electricity prices for residential consumers, or has it not had any real impact on prices?



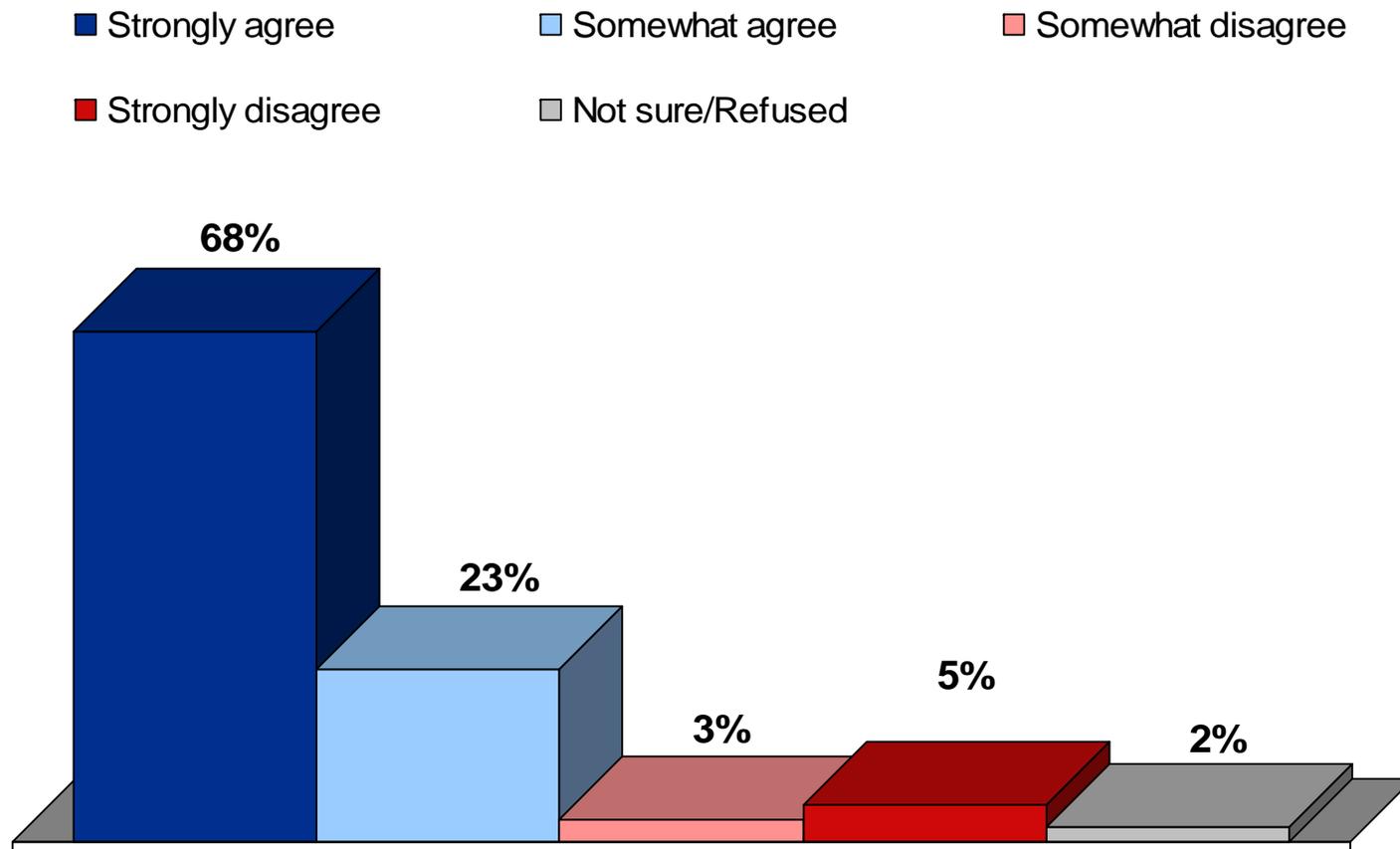
Which of these two statements about deregulated electricity markets is closer to your opinion?

A: Even in a deregulated market, ensuring an adequate electricity supply is too important to be left to market forces alone—it should be the responsibility of government agencies as well.

B: Under deregulation, the competitive marketplace will provide adequate financial incentives to spur investment in new generating plants and infrastructure projects.

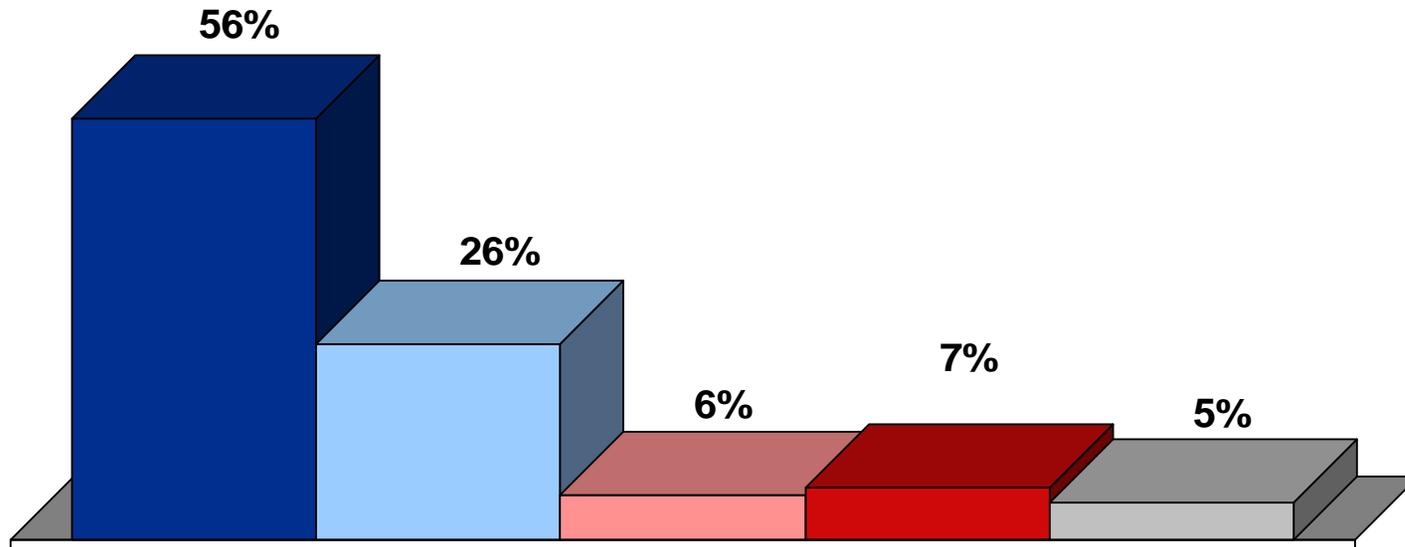


Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
Consumers should have the opportunity to choose the company that supplies their electricity—based on cost, service, innovative product offerings and environmental considerations.



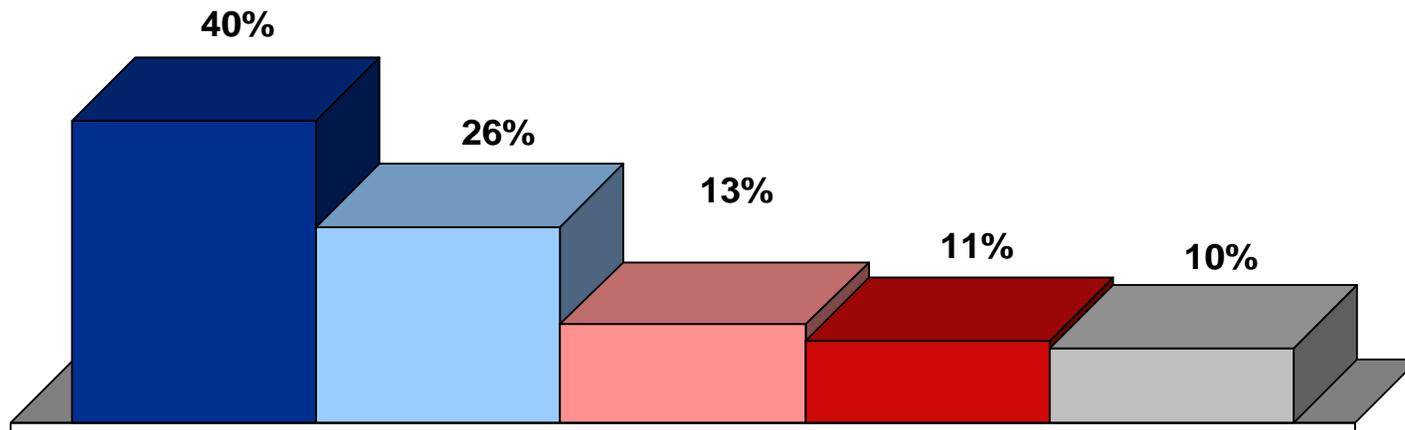
Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
Retail suppliers of electricity should be allowed to compete in an open marketplace—just like banks and telephone companies do.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure/Refused



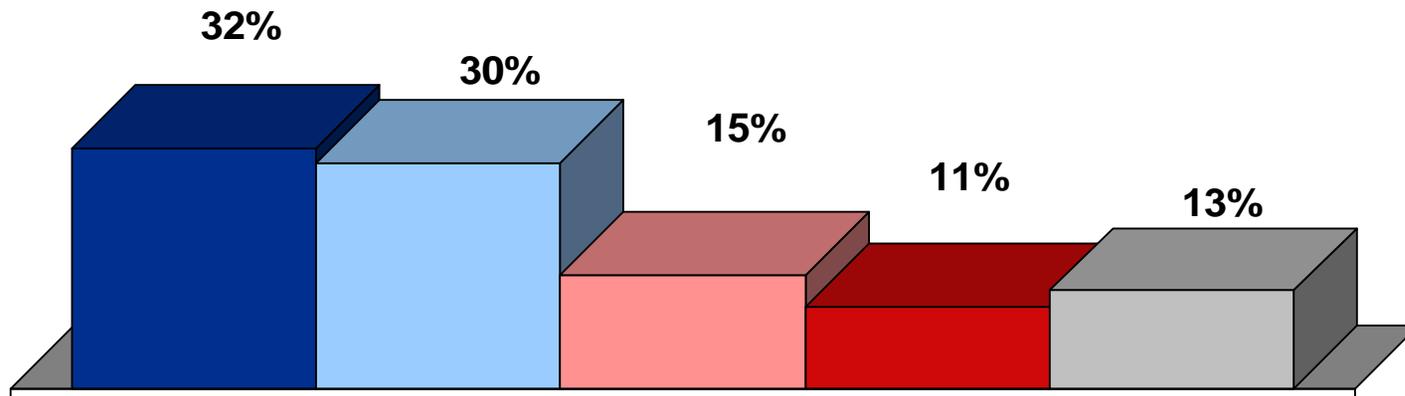
Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
All things considered, I have more confidence in companies operating in a competitive electricity marketplace than I have in utilities operating under state regulators.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure/Refused

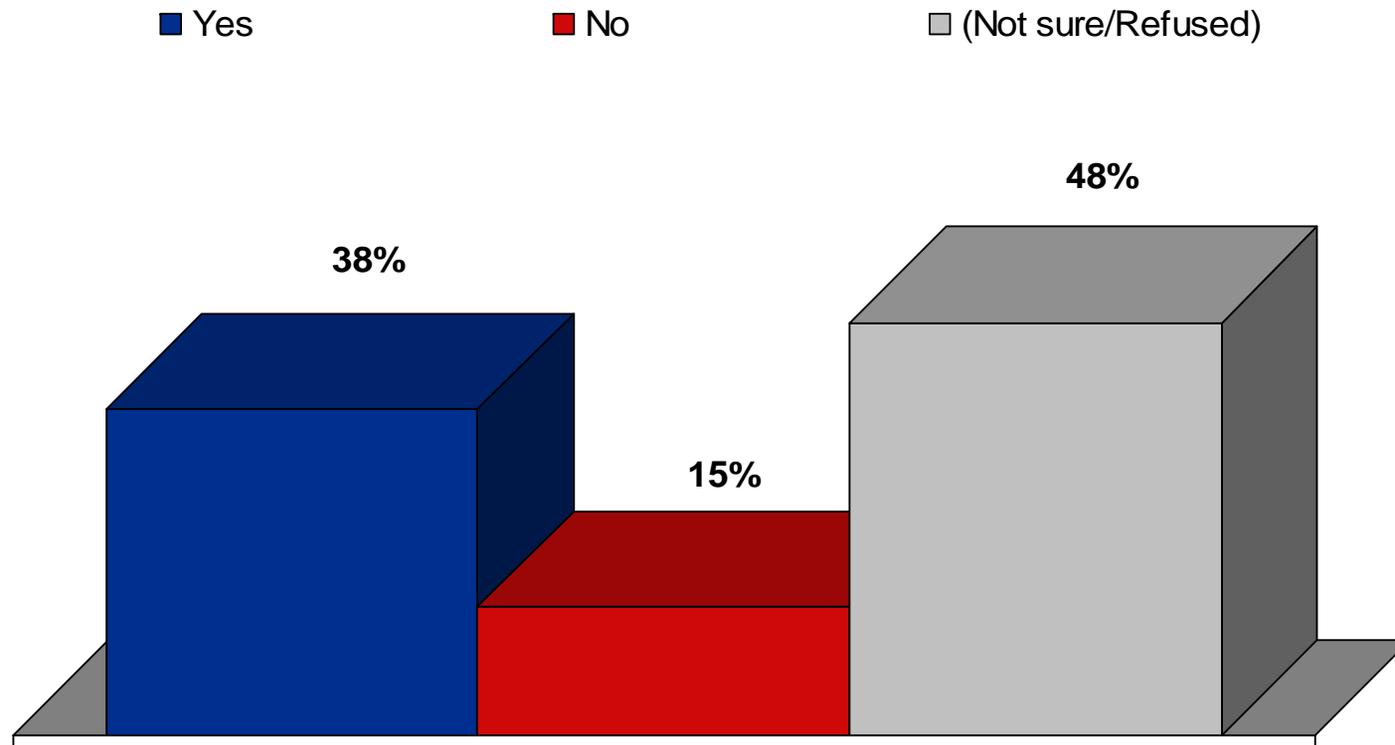


Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
Competitive electricity suppliers are better able than regulated electric utilities to provide consumers with products and services that address environmental concerns.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure/Refused

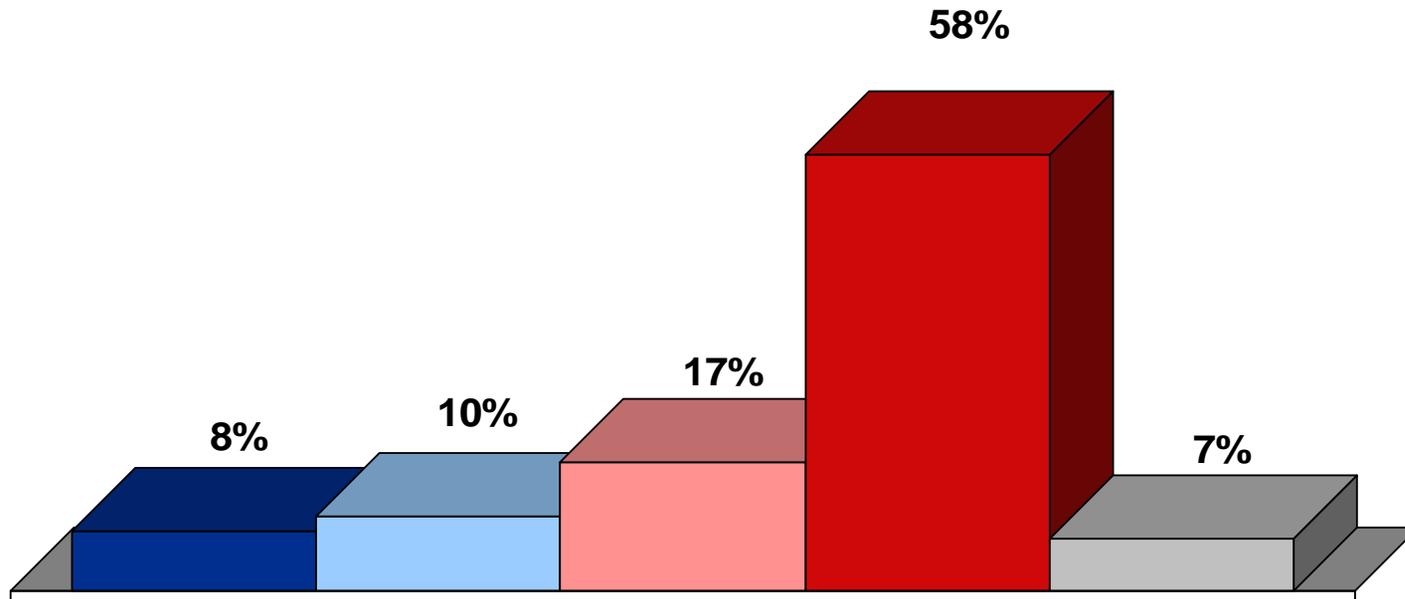


As far as you know, are you currently paying electric utilities for the overrun costs associated with projects they were mandated to build in a regulated environment?



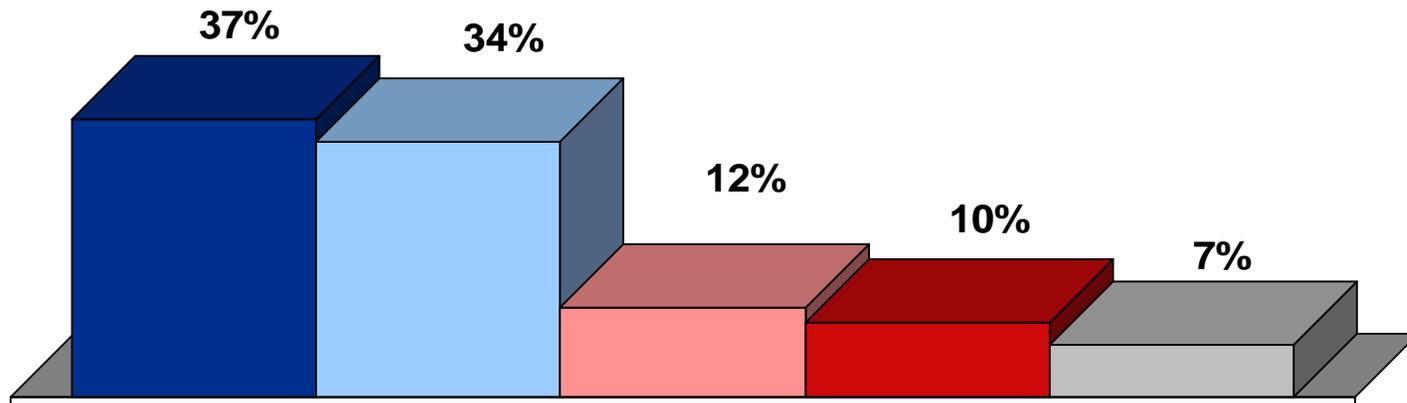
Do you favor or oppose the following:
Your local regulated electric utility being able to charge consumers a fee—say, \$50—if they switch to a different electricity supplier in the competitive marketplace.

- Strongly favor
- Somewhat favor
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Not sure/Refused

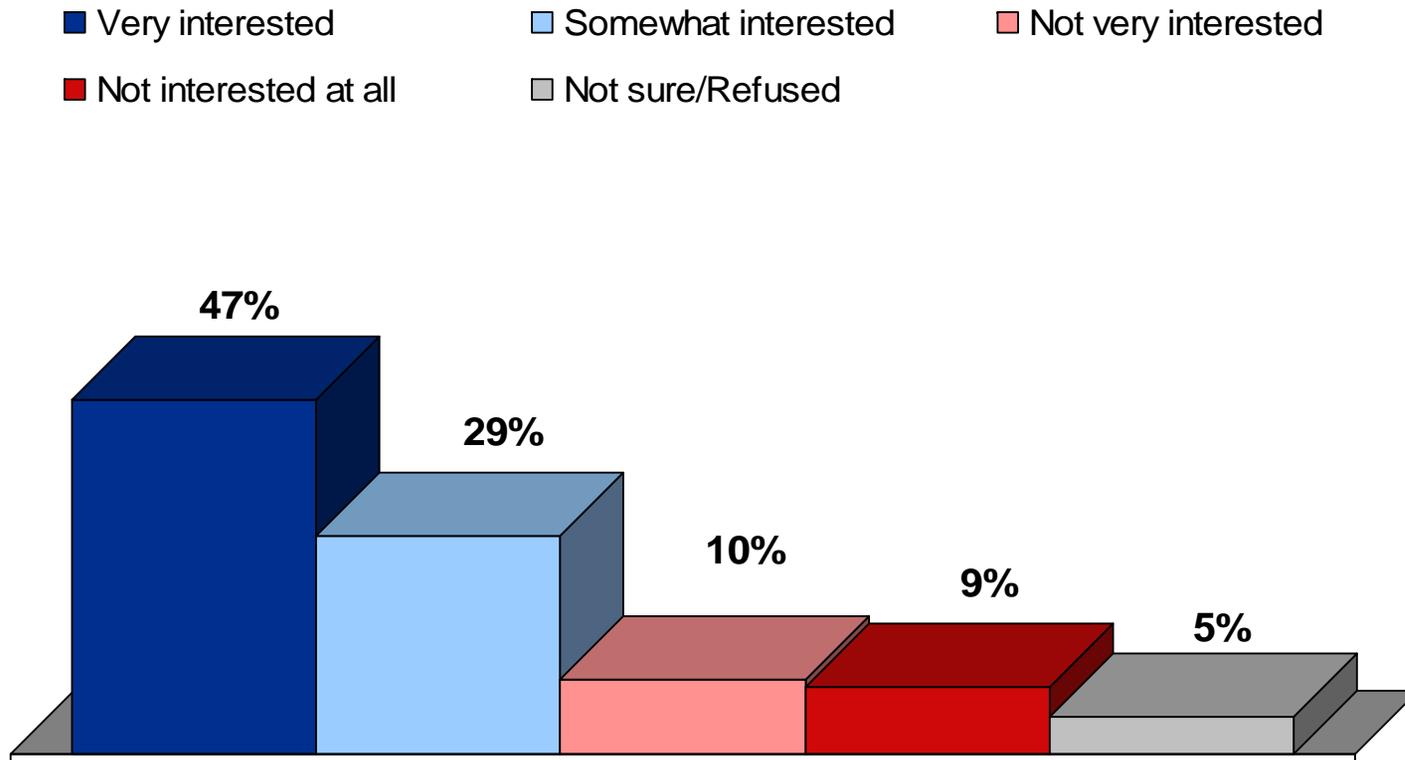


Assuming a monthly electric bill of about \$100, how interested would you be in switching electricity suppliers if you could save 5%—or about \$60 per year—on the electricity costs in your electric bill?

- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not very interested
- Not interested at all
- Not sure/Refused

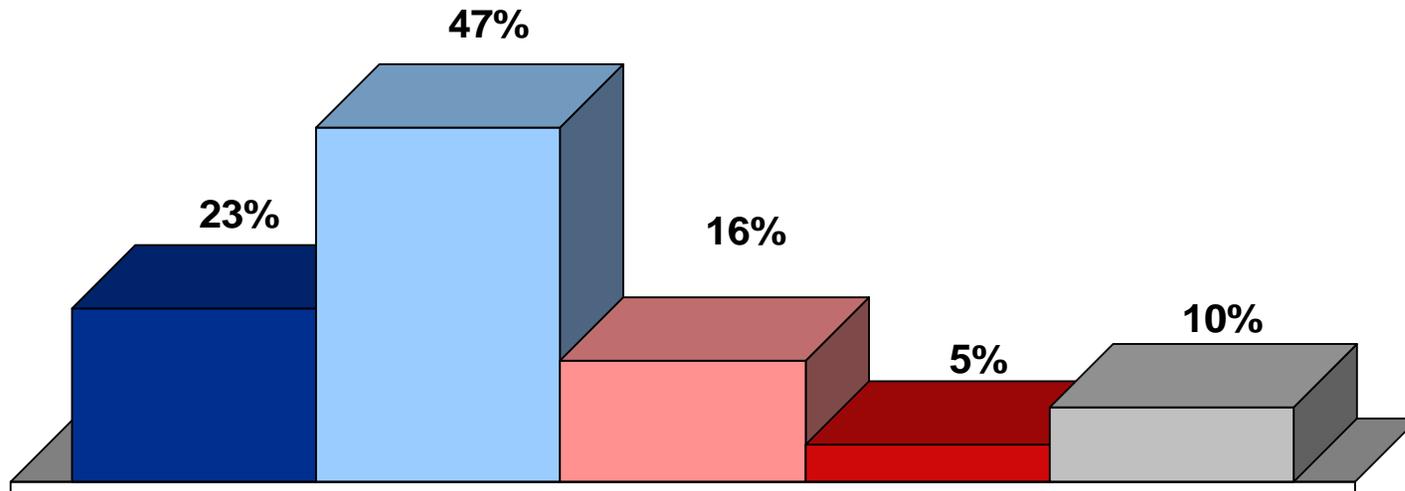


Again, assuming a monthly electric bill of about \$100, how interested would you be in purchasing energy-saving products and services—like home weatherization—if you could save 5%—or about \$60 per year—on your electric bill?

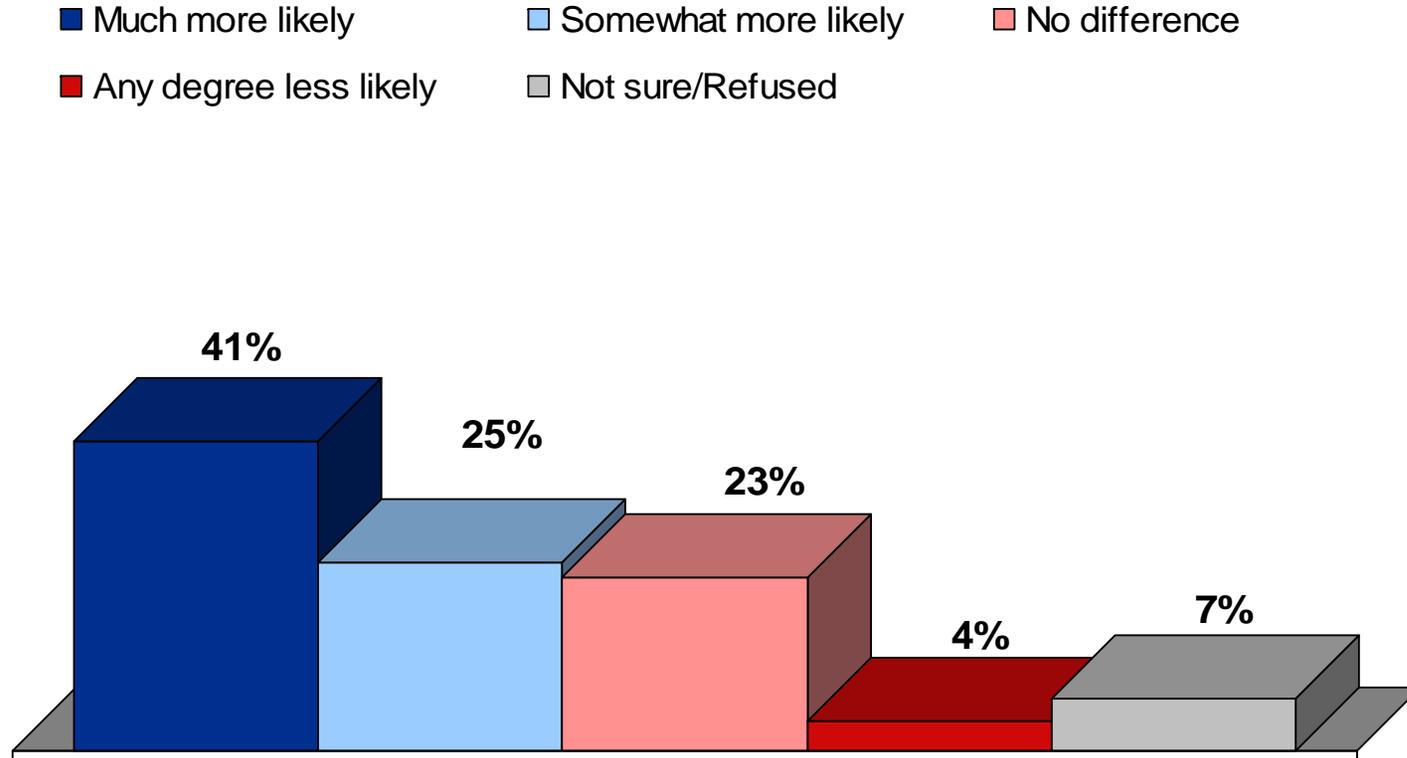


Under the system of regulated utilities, profits are limited by state regulators, but consumers bear the risk for cost overruns on utility projects. Under a restructured, competitive system, profits are limited only by the marketplace, but the risk for cost overruns is borne by the private companies. All things considered, which of these systems do you think is best for consumers:

- Regulated utility system
- Restructured competitive system
- Combination
- Neither
- Not sure/Refused

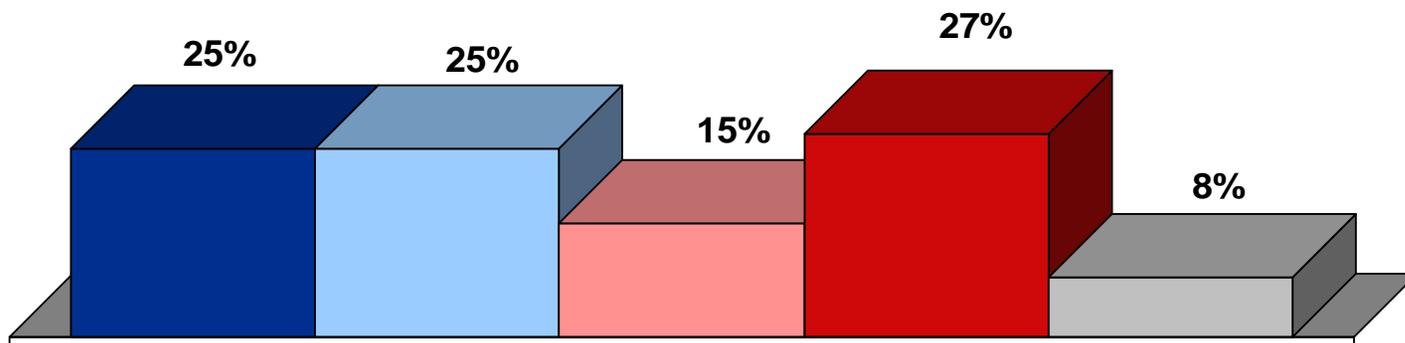


Since restructuring of the electric utility industry, a study has shown that New England consumers have saved at least \$6.5 billion and the region's more efficiently run power plants have reduced the rate of greenhouse gas emissions by 22%. Knowing this, are you much more likely to support a competitive, restructured electricity market, much more likely to support it, or doesn't it make any difference to you?



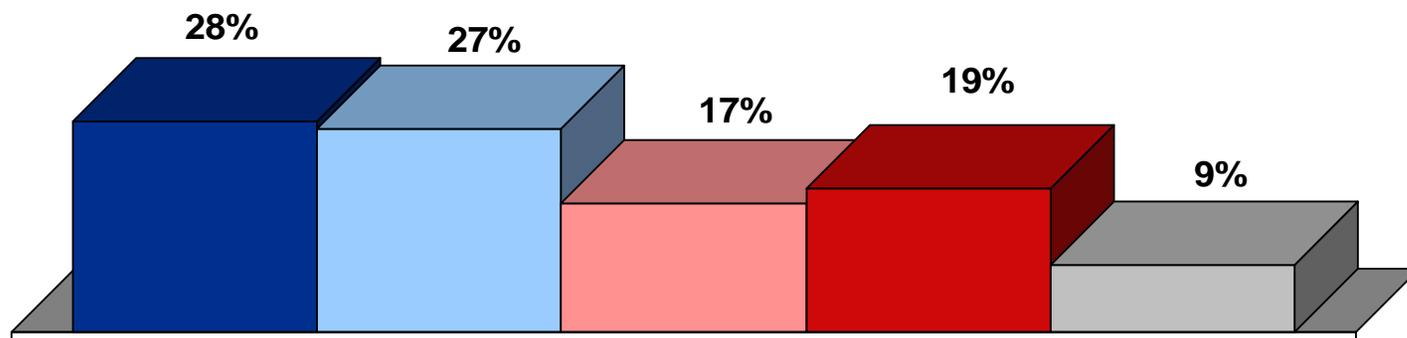
On the issue of building new nuclear power plants, supporters point to the fact that nuclear plants emit no greenhouse gases, that they are being built right now in many countries and new designs offer significant safety enhancements from the old design plants. Opponents say that there is still no workable solution for disposing of nuclear waste, that nuclear plants are very expensive to build, and that an accident cannot be ruled out. Based on this information do you favor or oppose building new nuclear power plants?

■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor ■ Somewhat oppose
■ Strongly oppose ■ Not sure/Refused

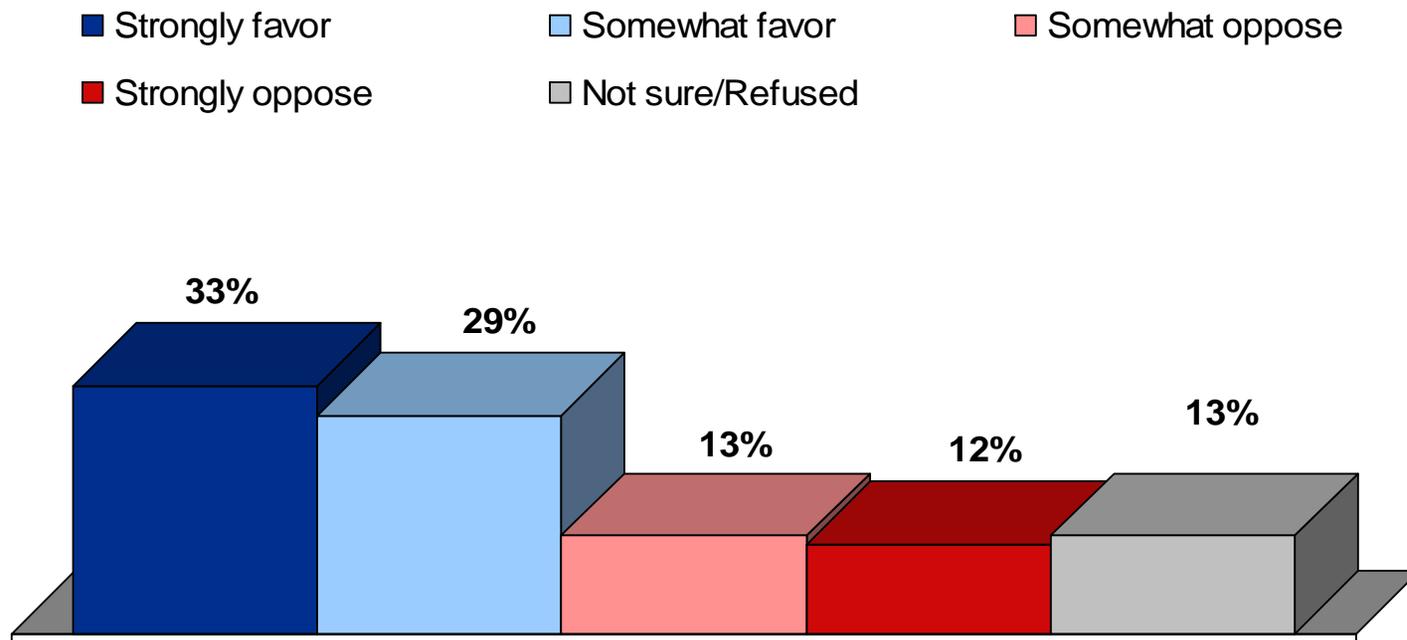


On the issue of renewing the licenses of existing nuclear power plants, supporters point to the fact that nuclear plants are operating better than ever, that they must meet rigorous regulatory inspection and standards to gain renewal, and that they don't contribute to global warming. Opponents say that nuclear technology is out-dated and older plants are too dangerous to continue operating. Based on this information would you favor or oppose renewing licenses for existing nuclear power plants?

■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor ■ Somewhat oppose
■ Strongly oppose ■ Not sure/Refused

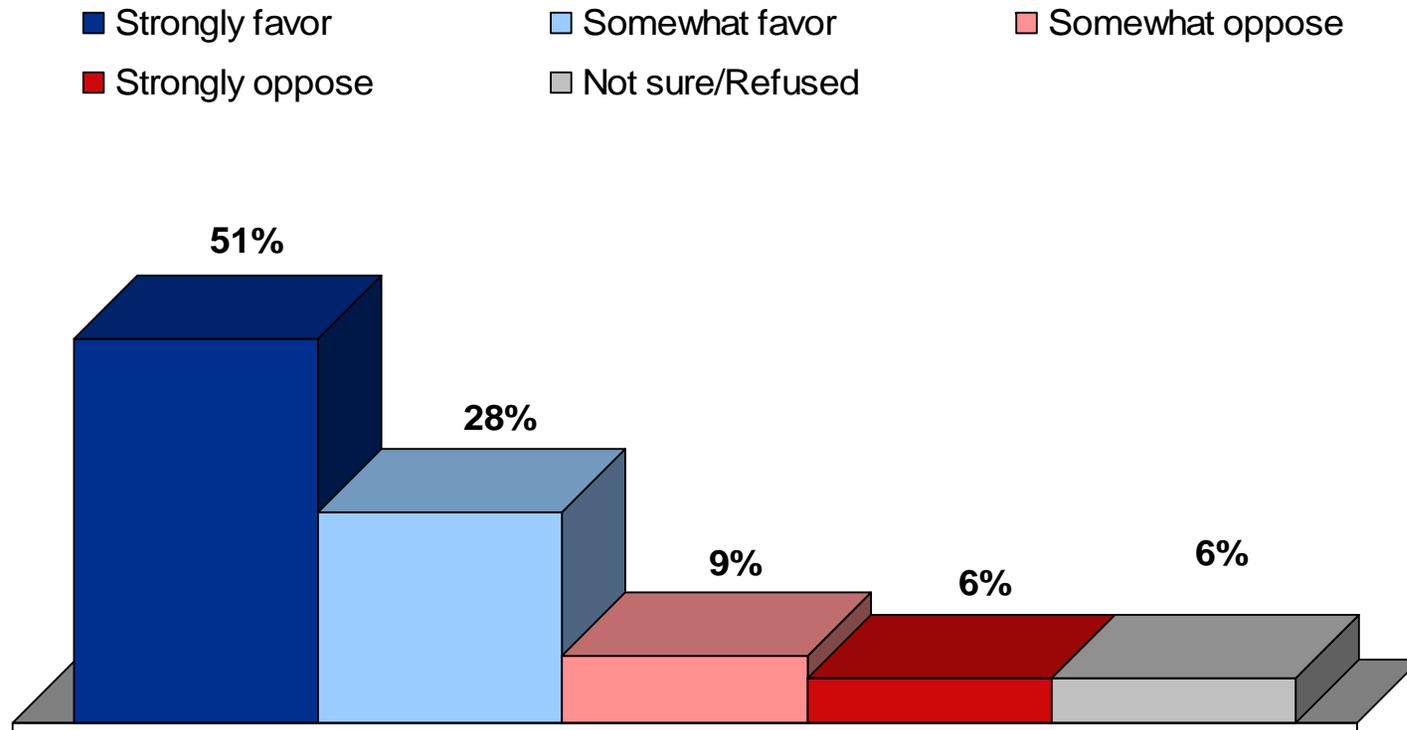


On the issue of LNG terminal facilities, supporters point to the fact that LNG facilities currently supply 30% of region's natural gas on a cold winter day, that they have a proven track record of safety all over the world, and that we need more natural gas very soon. Opponents point to safety concerns like vulnerability to a terrorist attack. Based on this information would you favor or oppose building LNG facilities?



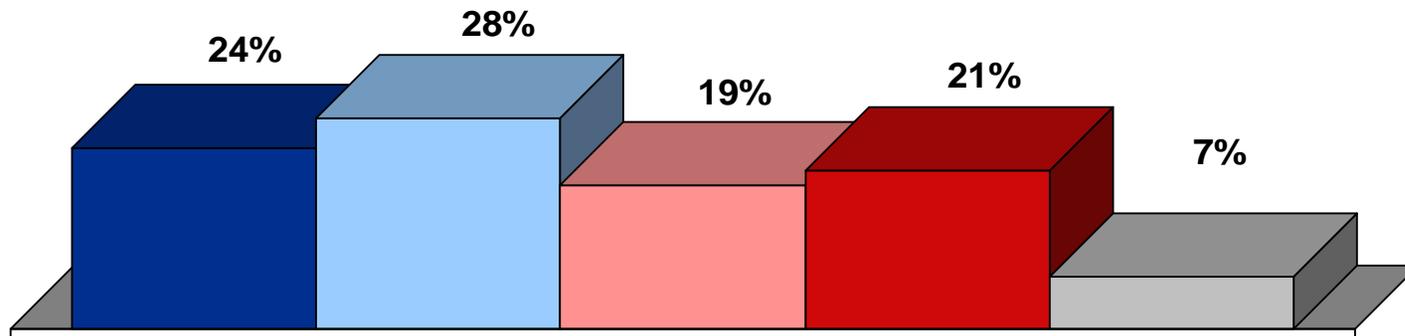
On the issue of large wind farms, supporters point to the fact wind farms don't emit greenhouse gases, that the wind is free and unlimited, and that new advances in technology make this a more viable source of electricity.

Opponents say wind farms are ugly, that they are expensive even with taxpayer subsidies, and that they only operate about 30% of the time. Based on this information would you favor or oppose building large wind farms?



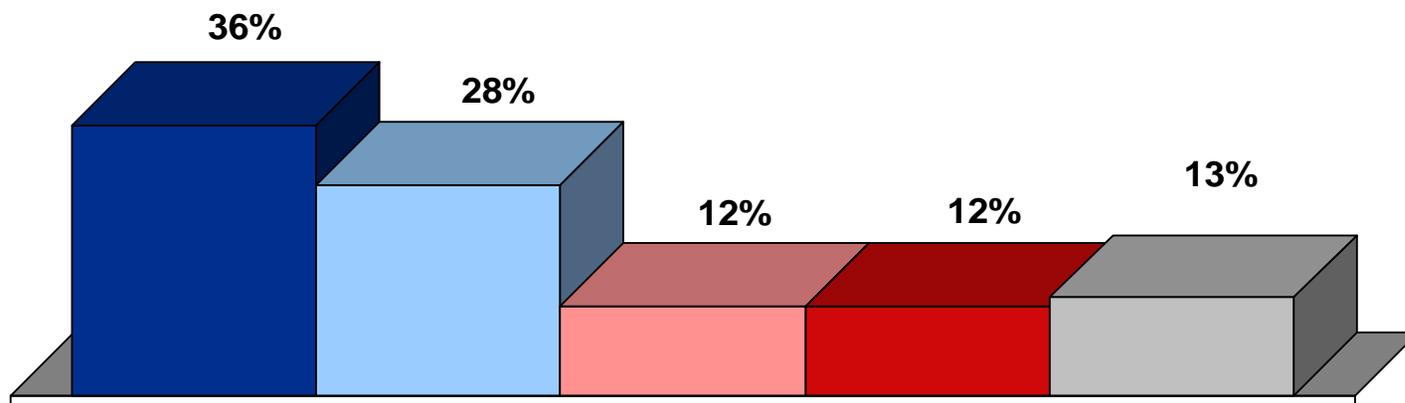
On the issue of clean coal plants, supporters point to the fact that clean coal plants reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 50% from existing coal technology, that coal is a low cost, domestic source of fuel, and that they are easy to build and operate. Opponents say clean coal plants still produce considerable amounts of greenhouse gases, and that mining coal damages the environment. Based on this information would you favor or oppose building clean coal plants?

- Strongly favor
- Somewhat favor
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Not sure/Refused

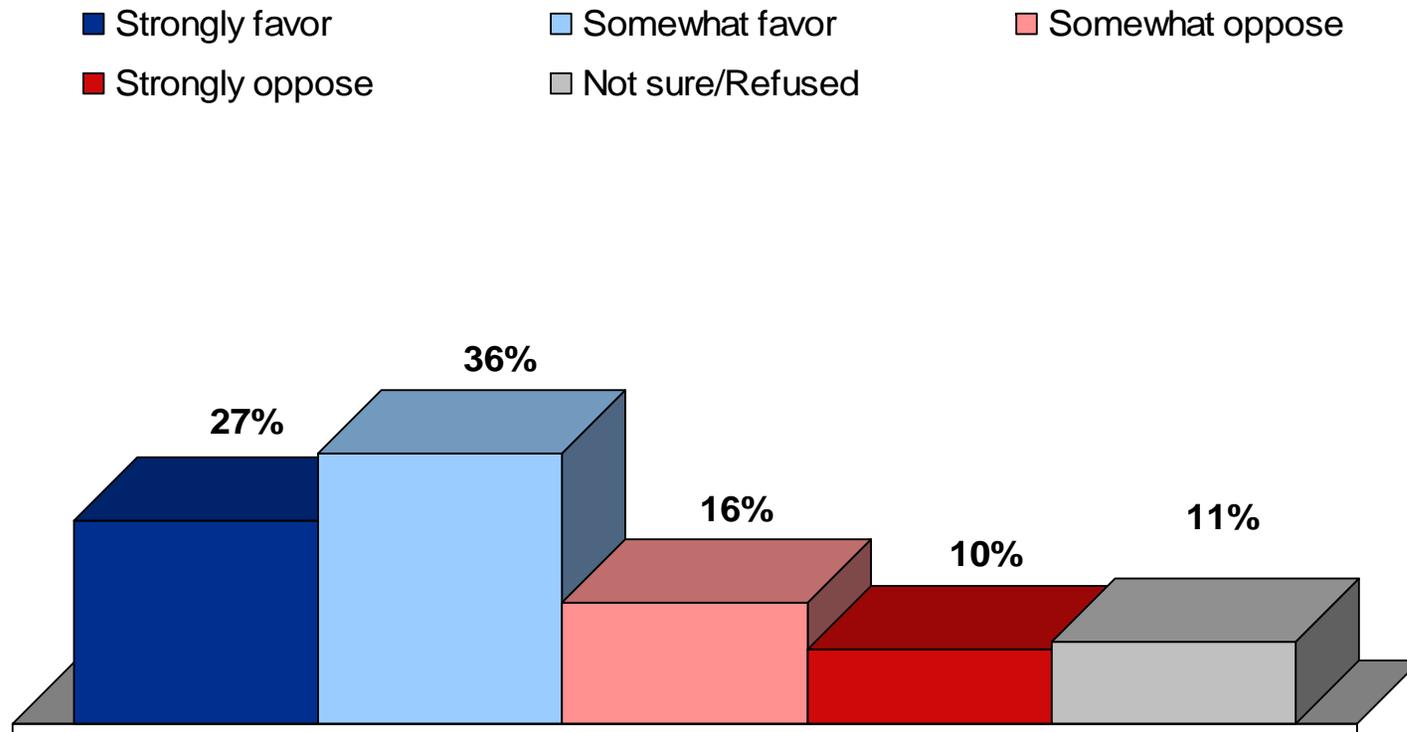


On the issue of mandated state energy-efficiency programs, supporters say that aggressive state programs in New England have resulted in consumers using 30% less electricity than the national average and that these programs also help conserve natural resources. Opponents say that these programs have cost consumers hundreds of million of dollars and have only slowed the demand for electricity—that we still need to build new generating facilities to have enough electricity for the region. Based on this information would you favor or oppose mandated state energy-efficiency programs?

- Strongly favor
- Somewhat favor
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Not sure/Refused

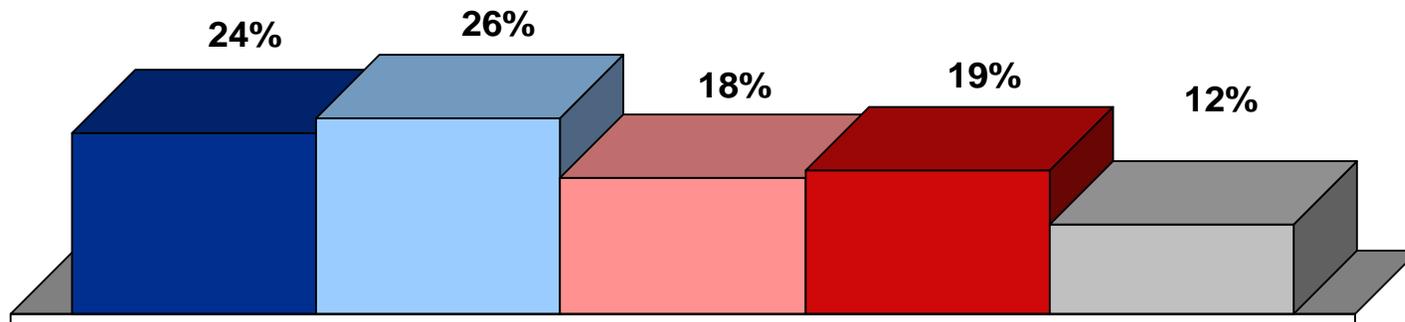


On the issue of new natural gas generating plants, supporters point to the fact that new natural gas plants use only a fraction of the gas used in older facilities to generate the same amount of electricity. Opponents say natural gas is expensive, and that we are already too dependent on it as a region. Based on this information would you favor or oppose building new natural gas generating plants?

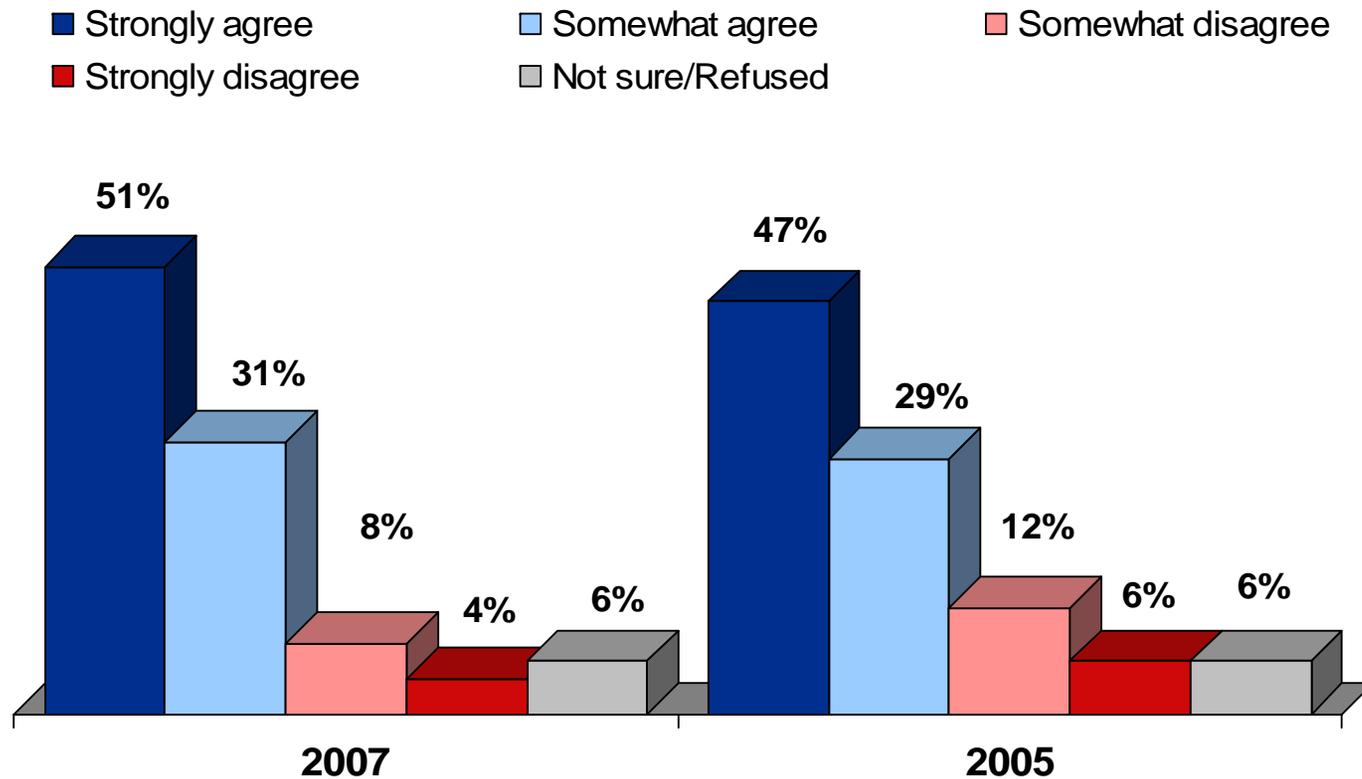


On the issue of new above-ground transmission lines, supporters say congestion on existing transmission lines costs consumers hundreds of million of dollars each year and jeopardizes reliability, and that new lines would solve this by allowing for the importation of more electricity from other regions. Opponents say transmission lines are ugly, require rights of way through many communities, and pose health risks and aren't needed if we reduce our use of electricity. Based on this information would you favor or oppose building new above-ground transmission lines?

■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor ■ Somewhat oppose
■ Strongly oppose ■ Not sure/Refused



Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
As long as we carefully balance energy needs and environmental concerns, we should move ahead and build additional energy facilities in New England.



Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
Most experts agree that we need to upgrade and expand our electricity transmission system to reduce costs to consumers and to assure an adequate supply of electricity. Because of this, the region's governors should work together to promote common standards and permitting processes.

