



New England Energy Alliance
2009 New England Consumer Energy Survey

January 2009

About the Survey

- **Telephone Interview Dates – January 15-19, 2009**
 - 600 interviews completed in New England
 - Connecticut – 140
 - Maine – 67
 - Massachusetts – 264
 - New Hampshire – 60
 - Rhode Island – 42
 - Vermont – 27

- **Tracking data shown for past studies conducted in New England in April 2008 and March 2007**

What do you think are the first and second most important issues facing New England today?

	January 2009	April 2008 ¹	March 2007 ¹
Economy/Recession*/Jobs	83%	50%	22%
High energy prices (gas, heating, oil, etc.)	20	20	12
Health care concerns	15	6	12
Taxes/Government spending	10	5	12
Housing costs/Crisis*	6	3	5
Environmental issues	6	3	6
Education	6	2	3
Iraq/war	3	2	8
Issues in government/politics	2	na	na
Other	1	3	8
Not sure/Refused	1	4	10

Q1 Note: Top responses shown; 2009 responses shown in abbreviated form. *Recession and Crisis in 2009 only. ¹ Asked for single most important issue in 2008 and 2007.



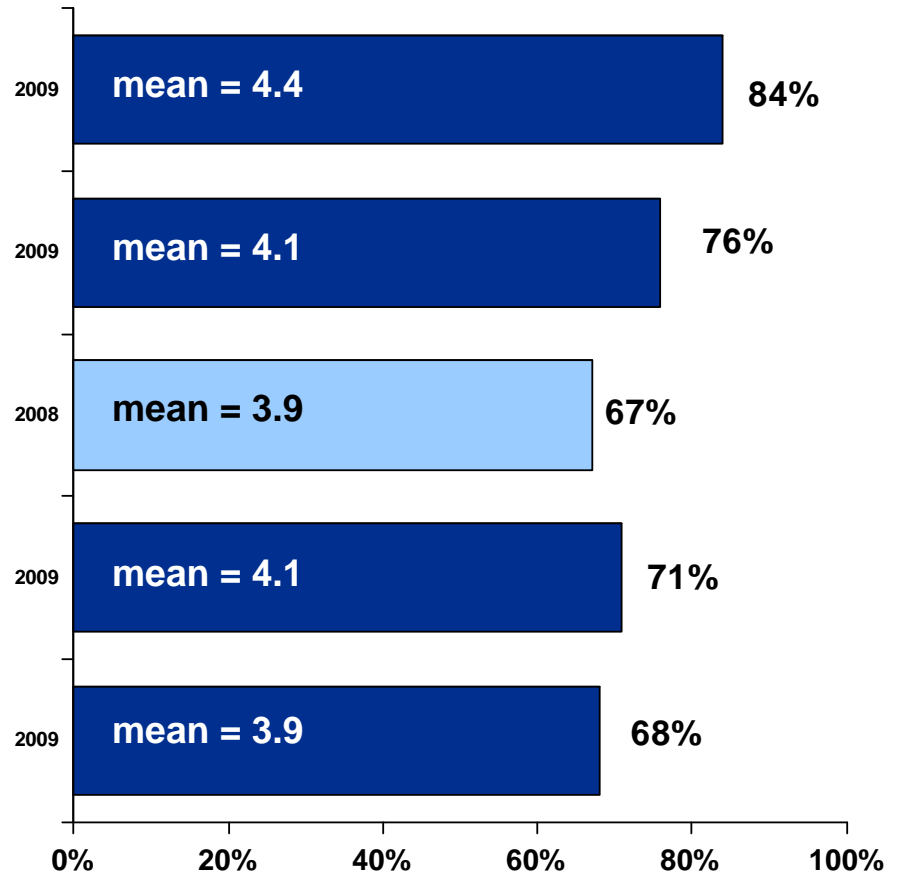
What do you think is the single most important energy-related issue facing New England today?

January 2009

(Potential for federal and state tax increases on gasoline by 25 to 50 cents per gallon)	23%
(Lack of renewable energy like wind and solar for electricity generation)	18
(An electricity supply that is 25% dependant on imported oil, which is among the highest in the nation)	17
Cost of oil/gas/electricity/energy	12
(Potential for oil prospecting/ drilling in or near the Georges Banks fishing grounds)	7
(Global Warming from the burning of fossil fuels)	5
(Repeated efforts by elected officials and environmental activists that subvert established permitting procedures for the construction of new energy supply facilities)	3
Mentions oil/natural gas etc (general)	1
Lack of supply of energy/oil	1
Affordable energy	1
Need for nuclear power	1
Mentions wind power/Cape Wind	1
Use a lot of energy/conservation	1
(Other)	4
(Not sure/refused)	6

Using a scale of 1=*not concerned at all* and 5=*extremely concerned* Please rate your level of concern about each of the following regional energy-related issues

Rising and falling energy prices and their impact on family budgets and businesses



Businesses in our region pay 60% (30% in 2008) more for electricity than the national average, placing them at a competitive disadvantage. Because of this, many will expand and create jobs elsewhere—outside of New England.

Overall waste and inefficiency of our finite energy resources

Energy supply interruptions due to the actions of foreign energy producers, inadequate infrastructure or extreme weather like Hurricane Katrina

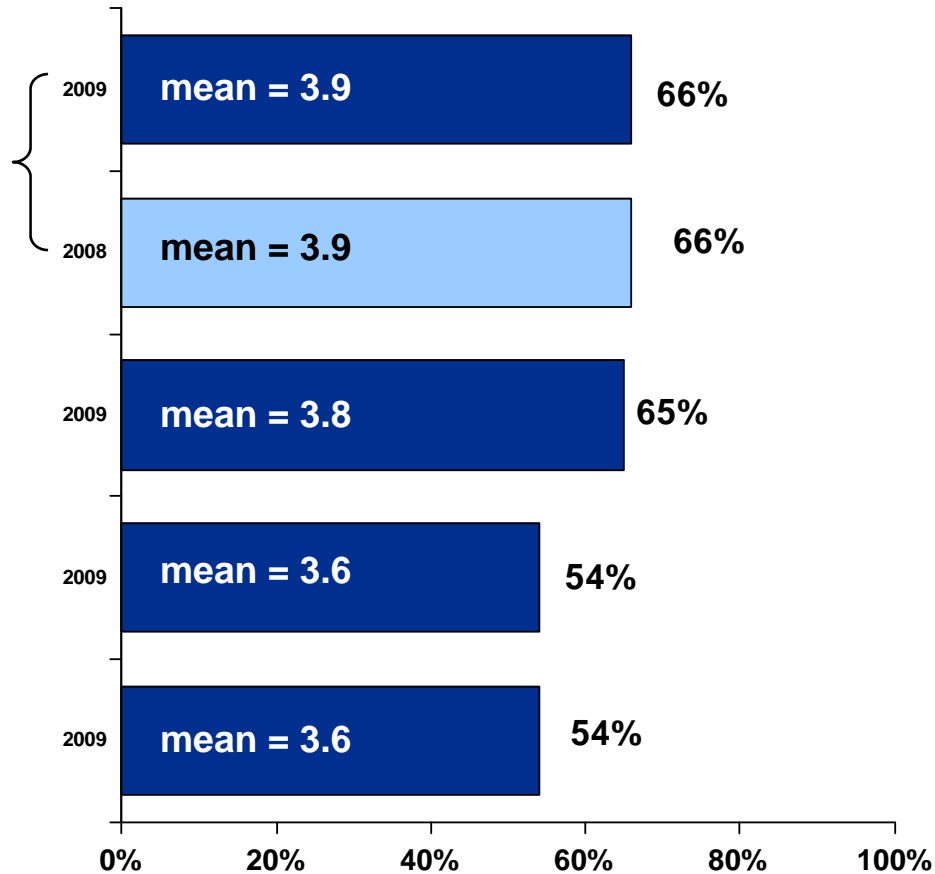
Using a scale of 1=*not concerned at all* and 5=*extremely concerned* Please rate your level of concern about each of the following regional energy-related issues (*continued*)

Most experts agree that large renewable electricity generating facilities are needed to significantly reduce the emissions that affect climate change. The largest renewable proposal in New England, Cape Wind's project off the southeast coast of Massachusetts, has been blocked for several years by opposition groups made up of local residents and some politicians who have taken a "not in my backyard" attitude.*

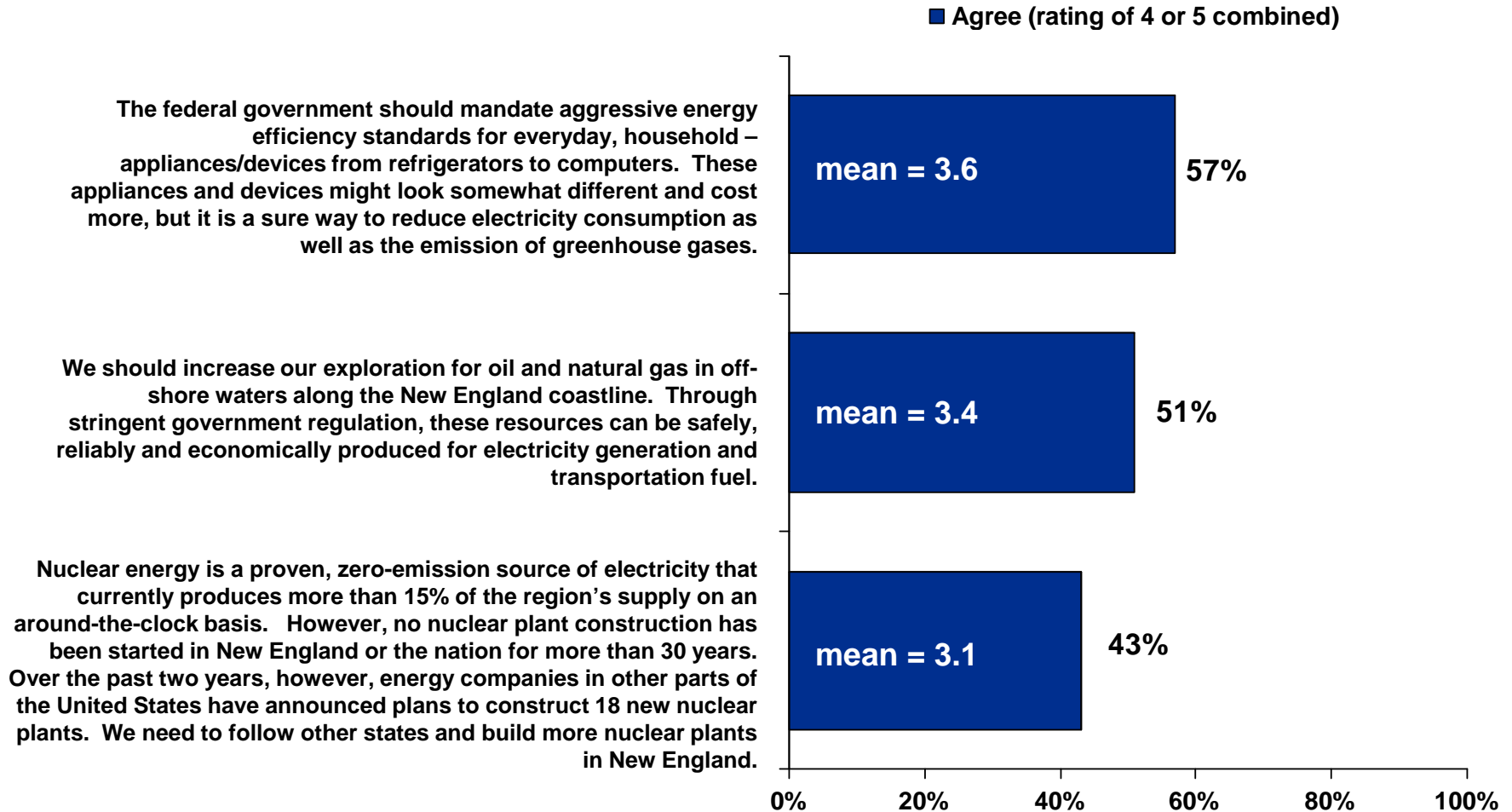
Damage to the environment—particularly related to climate change

Many sources of renewable supply are located in remote areas of New England that are not readily accessible to the region's transmission system that delivers electricity to urban and suburban areas. Upgrading and expanding transmission infrastructure often faces substantial local opposition and can take years longer to build if at all.

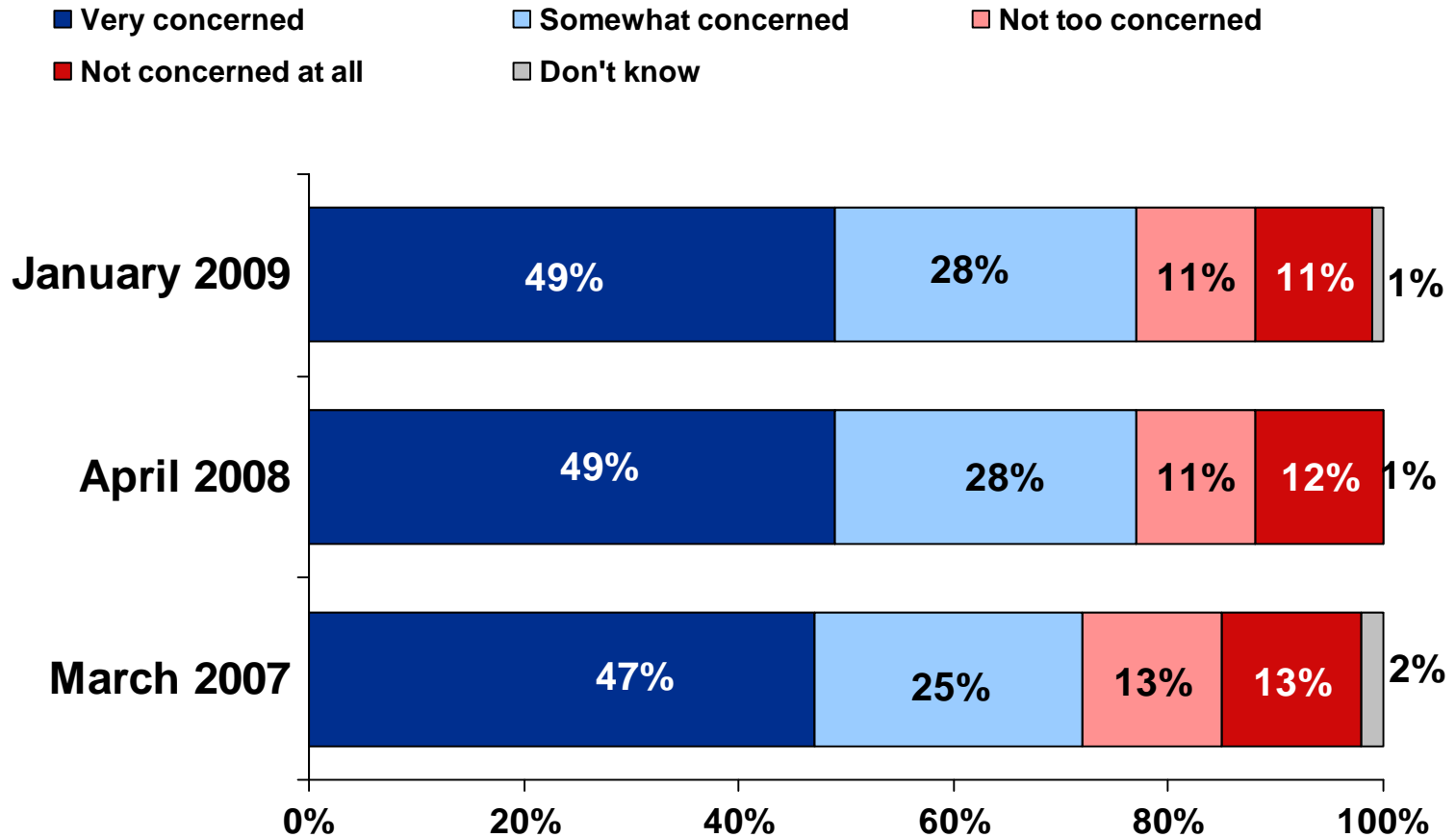
The region has been slow to install "smart meters" which would provide valuable information to small business owners and families regarding electricity consumption and provide opportunities to save money during peak demand periods.



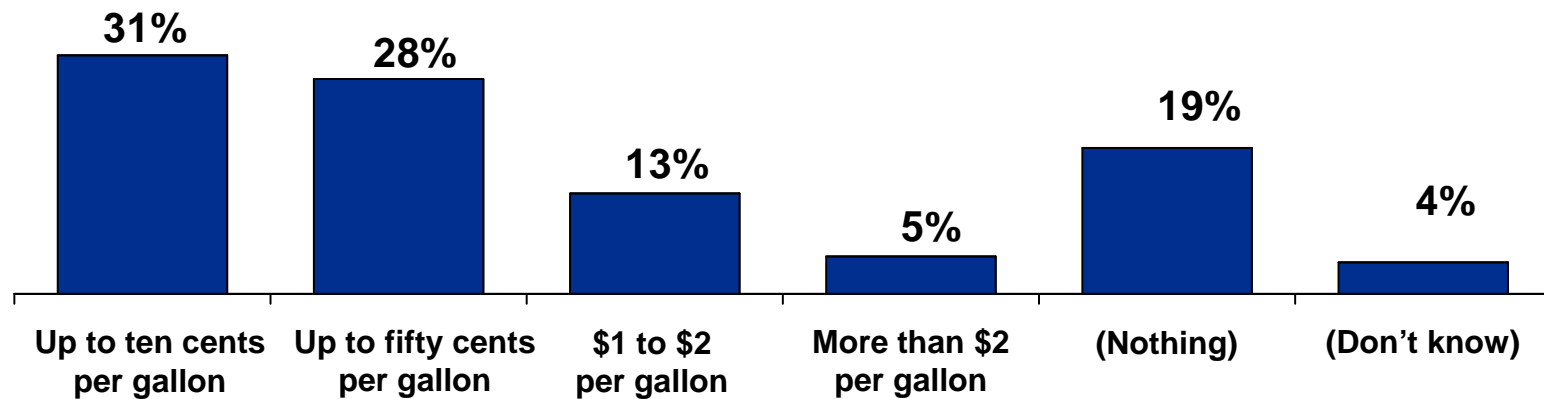
Using a scale of 1=*strongly disagree* and 5=*strongly agree* Please provide your level of agreement with each of the following regional energy proposals



In general, how concerned are you about the effects of global warming?

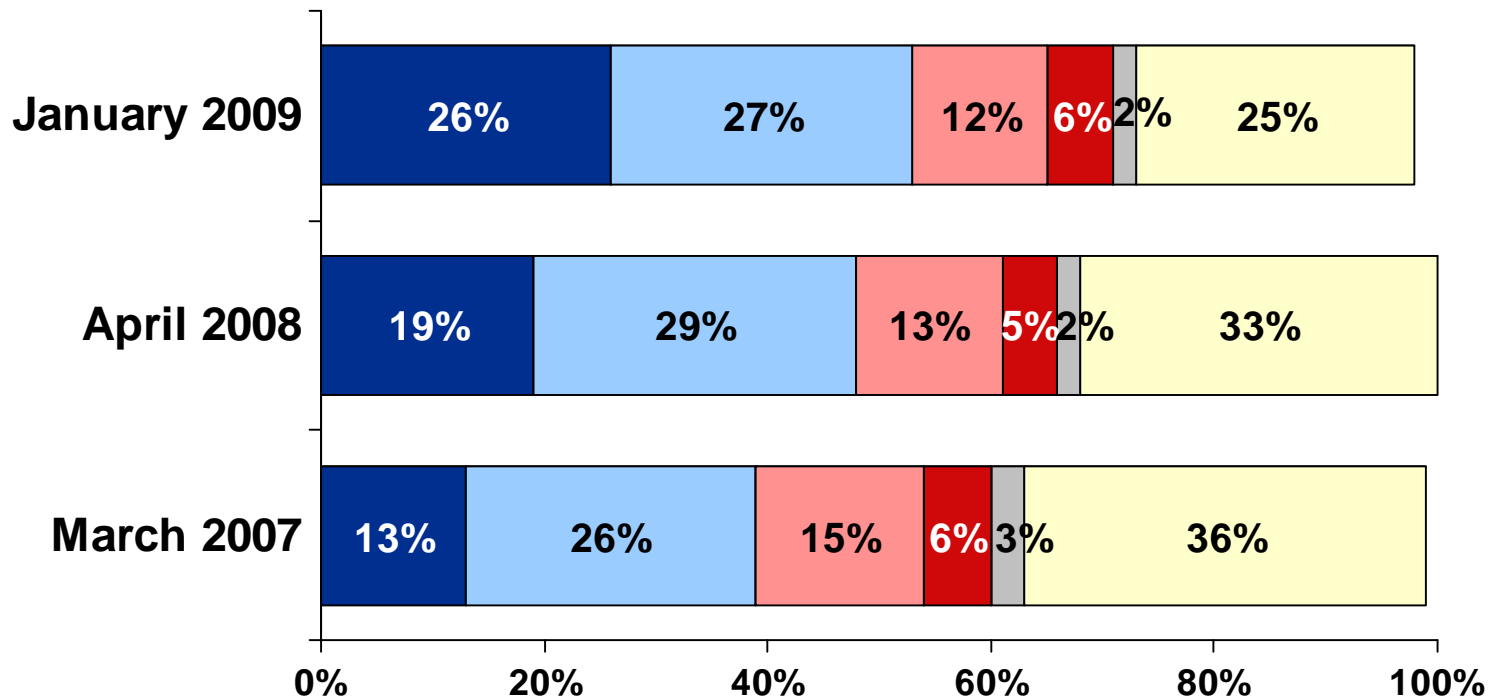


About how much extra per gallon would you be willing to pay for your car's gasoline to support government efforts to develop alternative fuels that do not emit carbon dioxide which contributes to global climate change?

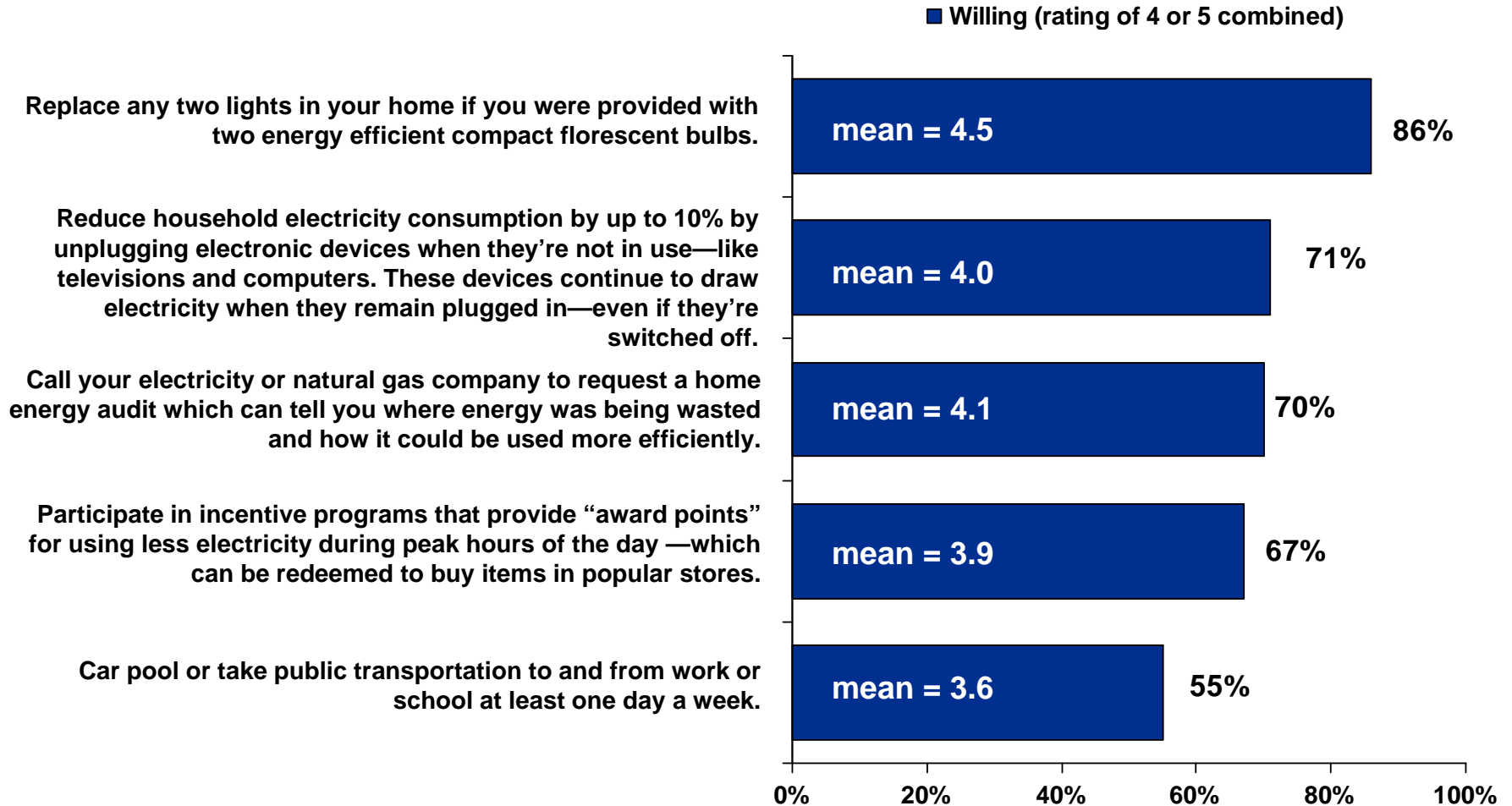


About how much extra per month would you be willing to pay on your electric bill to support utility and government efforts to limit the effects of global warming by reducing carbon dioxide emissions from power plants?

■ Up to \$1 ■ \$1-\$10 ■ \$10-\$20 ■ \$20-\$50 ■ More than \$50 ■ Nothing/Don't know

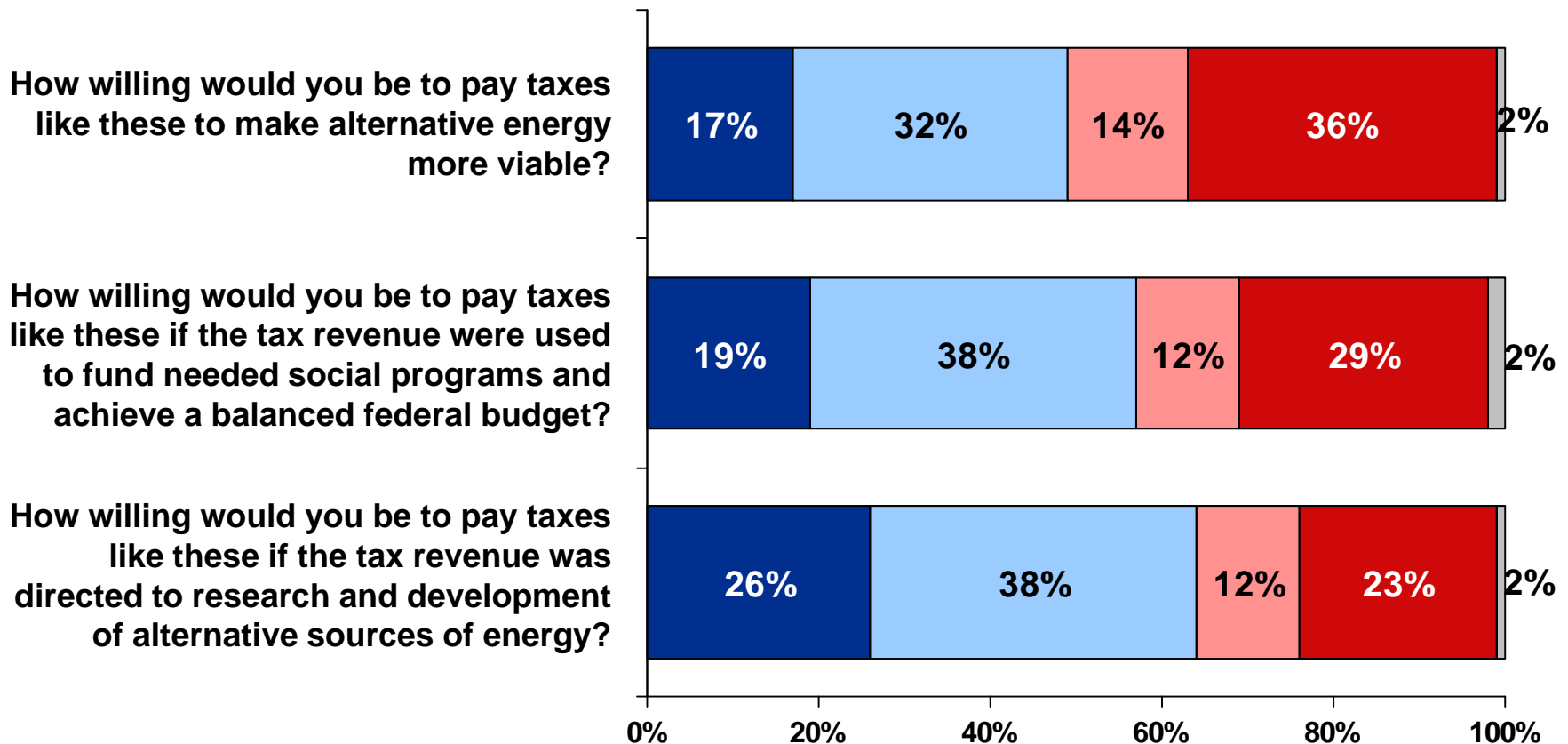


Using a scale of 1=*strongly unwilling* and 5=*strongly willing* Please rate your desire to implement the following to reduce energy consumption in your daily life.



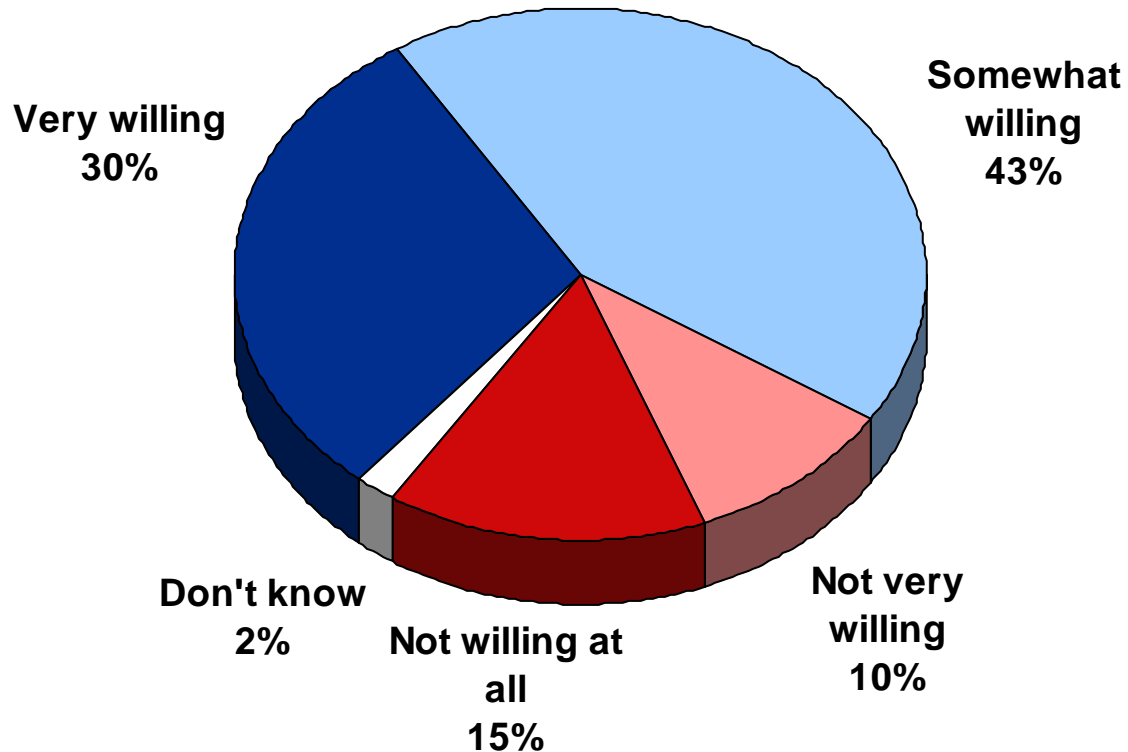
Many people argue that as long as prices for fossil fuels—like oil, coal and natural gas—remain relatively inexpensive, that widespread adoption of alternative forms of energy like wind farms, solar panels and hybrid electric cars will never be achieved at a level that would make a significant difference. One proposal to address this issue is to make fossil fuels permanently more expensive by implementing a 50 cent per gallon tax on gasoline and increasing the average electricity bill by \$20 per month.

■ Very willing ■ Somewhat willing ■ Not very willing ■ Not willing at all ■ Don't know

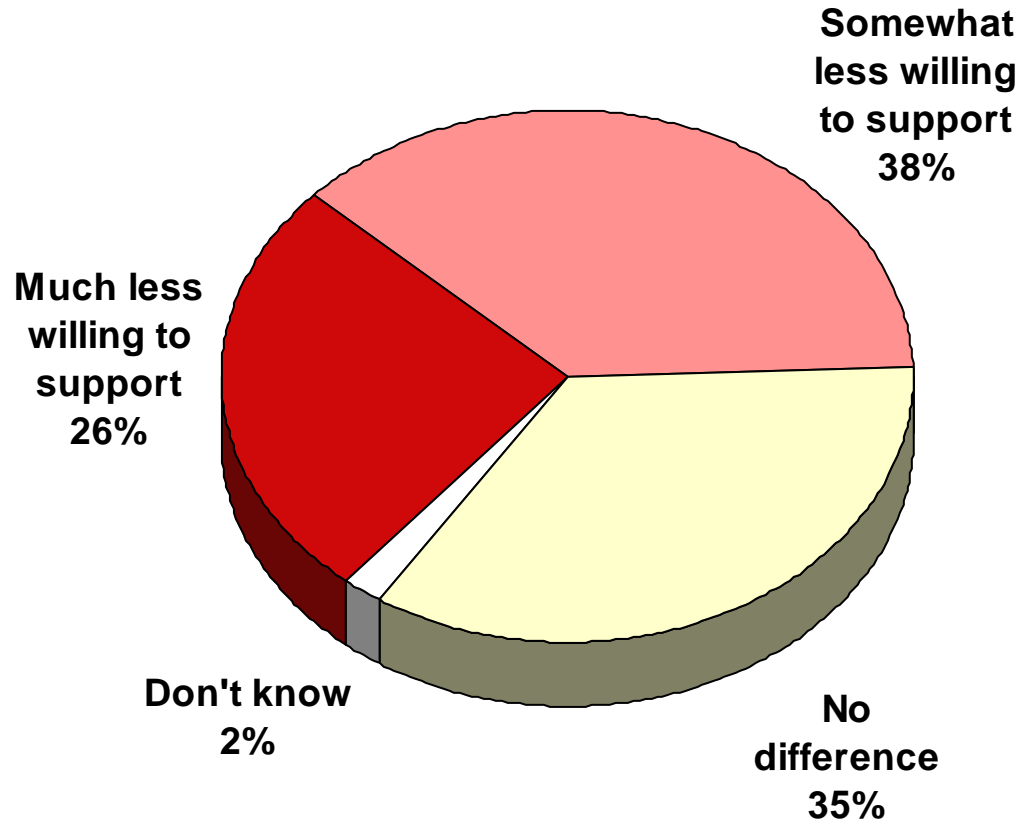


Another proposal—which has been used in the past—is for increased federal tax subsidies for new energy technologies so that their cost is competitive with technologies based on fossil fuels.

How willing would you be to support this approach?

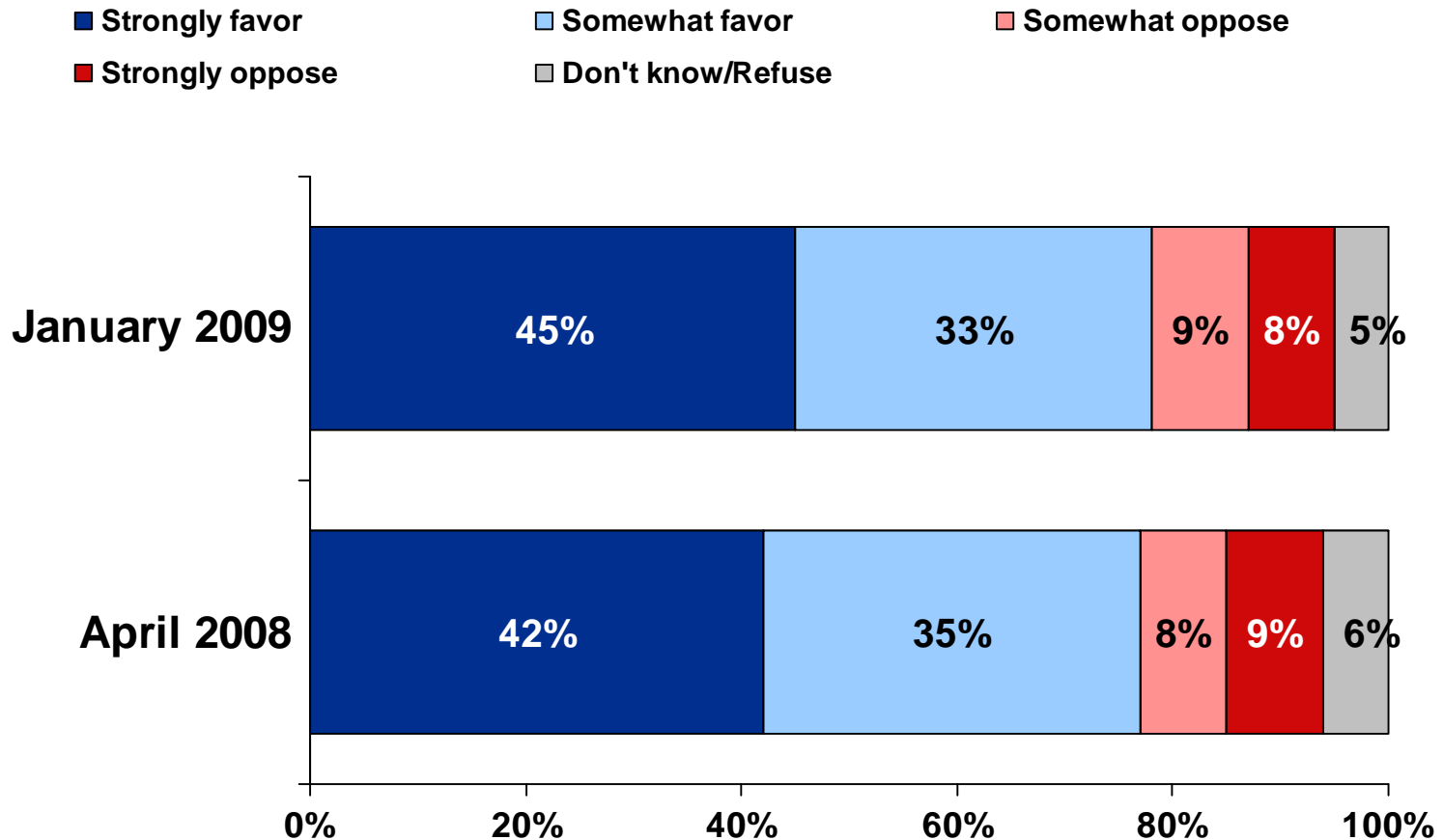


If you knew that this approach could lead to higher food costs due to use of corn-based ethanol as a substitute for gasoline, would you be much less willing to support this approach, or wouldn't it make any difference to you?*

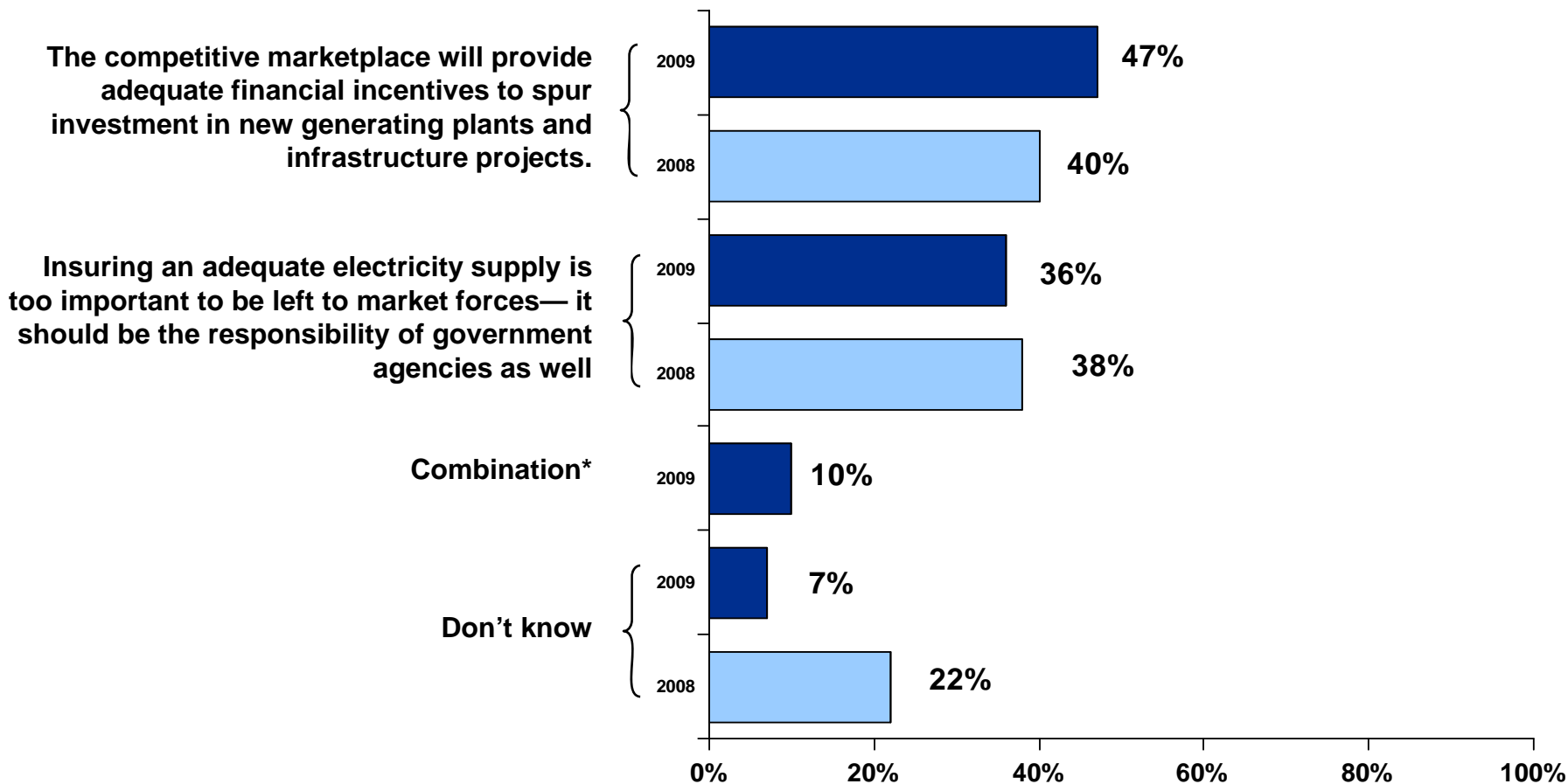


Historically, electricity was delivered by regulated electric utility companies that acted like monopolies. They were mandated by state regulators to build generating plants, as well as generate and deliver electricity to homes and businesses. As you may know, electricity restructuring means that rather than having a regulated utility company responsible for both producing and delivering power, privately-owned companies compete based on price and consumers have the choice from whom to purchase their electricity. Distribution over wires to homes and businesses is still the responsibility of a regulated electric utility company. Under a restructured electricity system, switching electricity suppliers is no more difficult than switching your telephone service from, say, Verizon to Comcast.

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

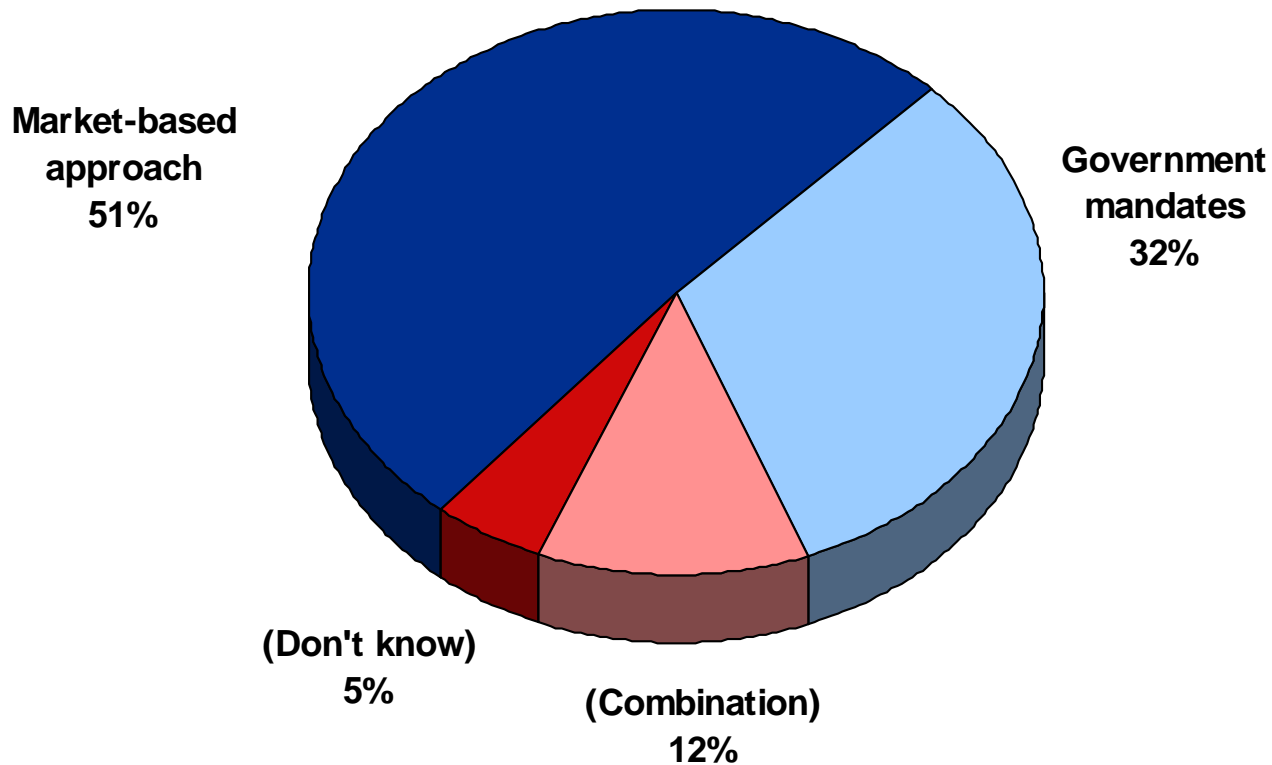


Which of these two statements about restructured electricity markets is closer to your opinion?



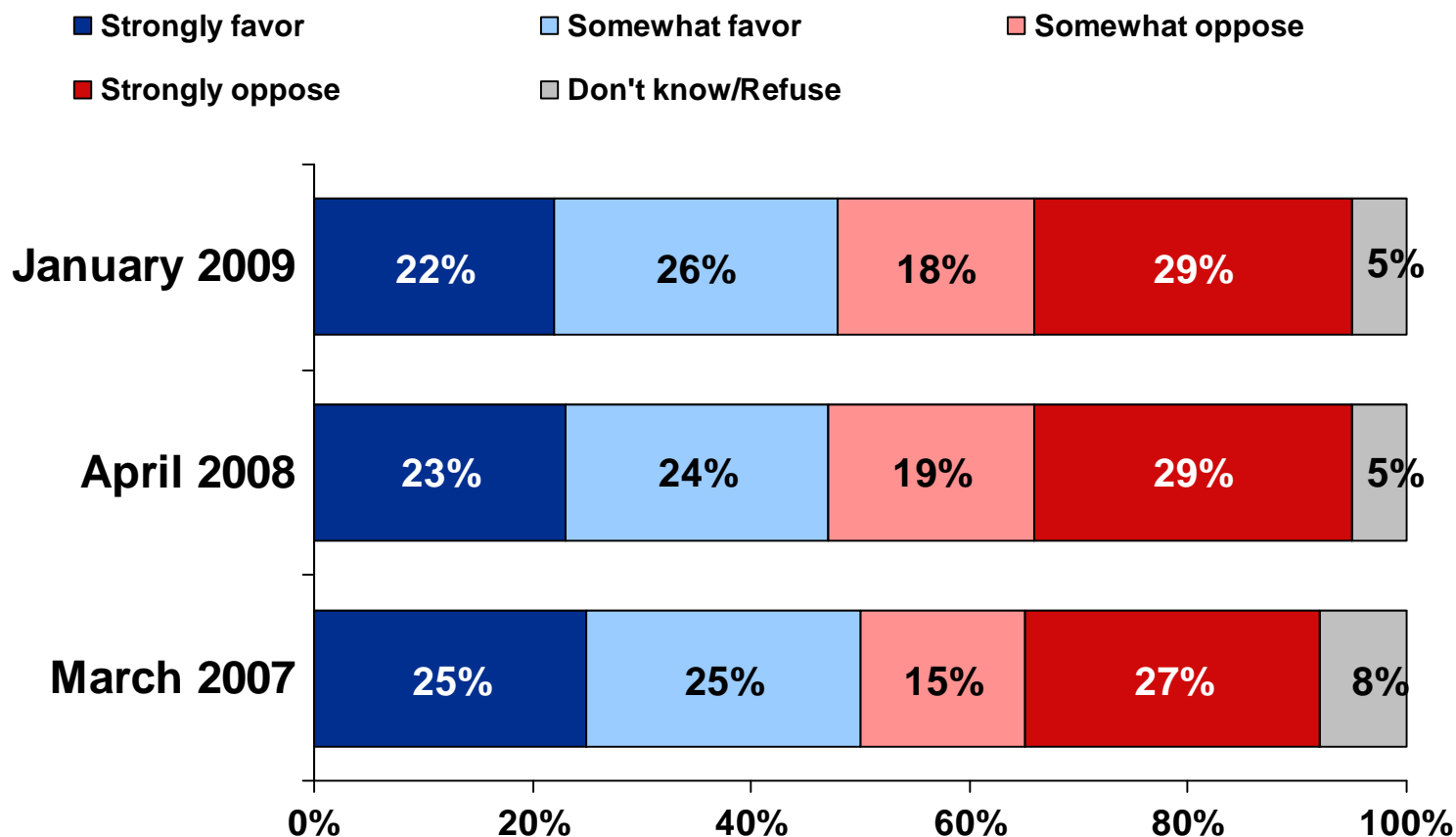
On the issue of limiting the greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generating plants there is a strong consensus to take action, but there are two competing approaches being proposed. One involves a market-based approach that uses profit as a motive for companies to invent, improve, or acquire a way to cost-effectively and flexibly reduce their emissions. This approach has been successfully used since the early 1990s to reduce acid rain-causing emissions from electricity generating plants. The other is a government-driven approach through the imposition of taxes and increasingly tougher mandates that a generating plant would have to either comply with or face shutdown.

Based on this information, which of these two approaches would you favor?



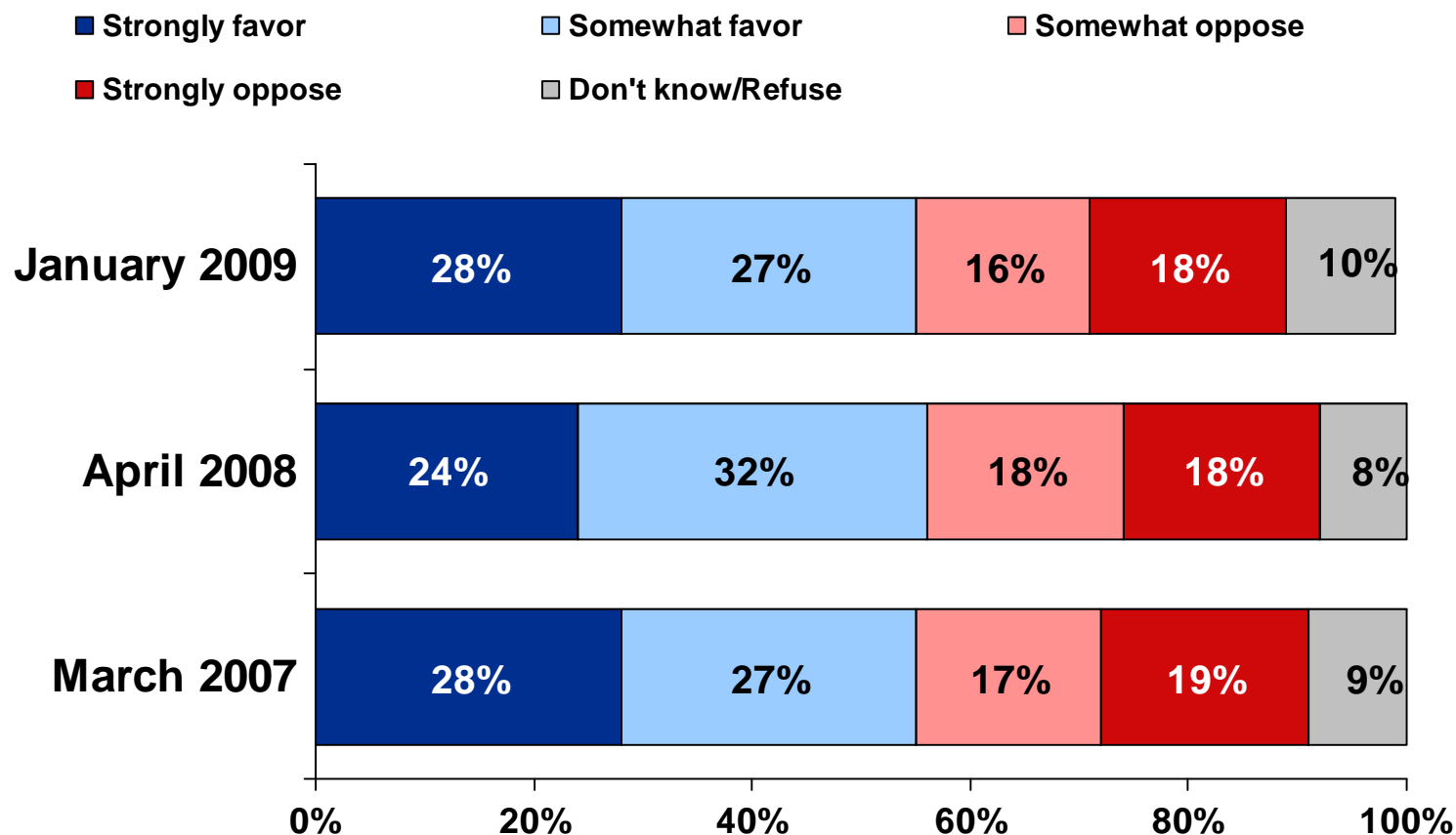
On the issue of building new nuclear energy plants, supporters point to the fact that nuclear plants emit no greenhouse gases, have excellent safety records, and that 18 plants with evolutionary designs offering significant safety enhancements have applied for construction licenses outside of New England over the past year. Opponents say that there is still no workable solution for disposing of (A: nuclear waste/B: spent nuclear fuel), that nuclear plants are very expensive to build, and that an accident cannot be ruled out.

Based on this information would you favor or oppose building new nuclear energy plants?

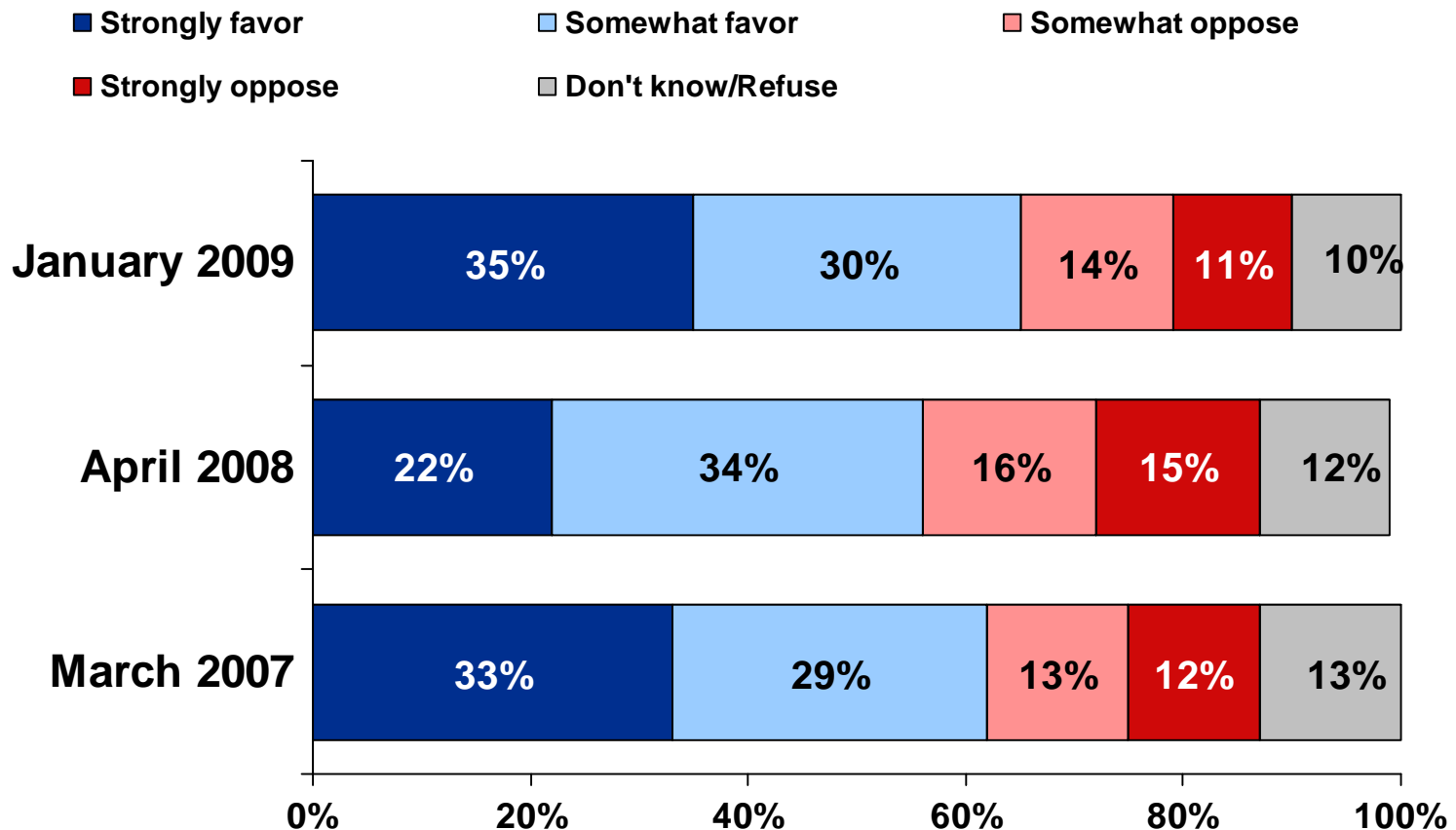


On the issue of renewing the licenses of existing nuclear energy plants, supporters point to the fact that nuclear plants are operating better than ever and must meet rigorous regulatory inspection requirements to gain renewal, and that they don't contribute to global warming. Opponents say that nuclear technology is outdated and older plants are too dangerous to continue operating.

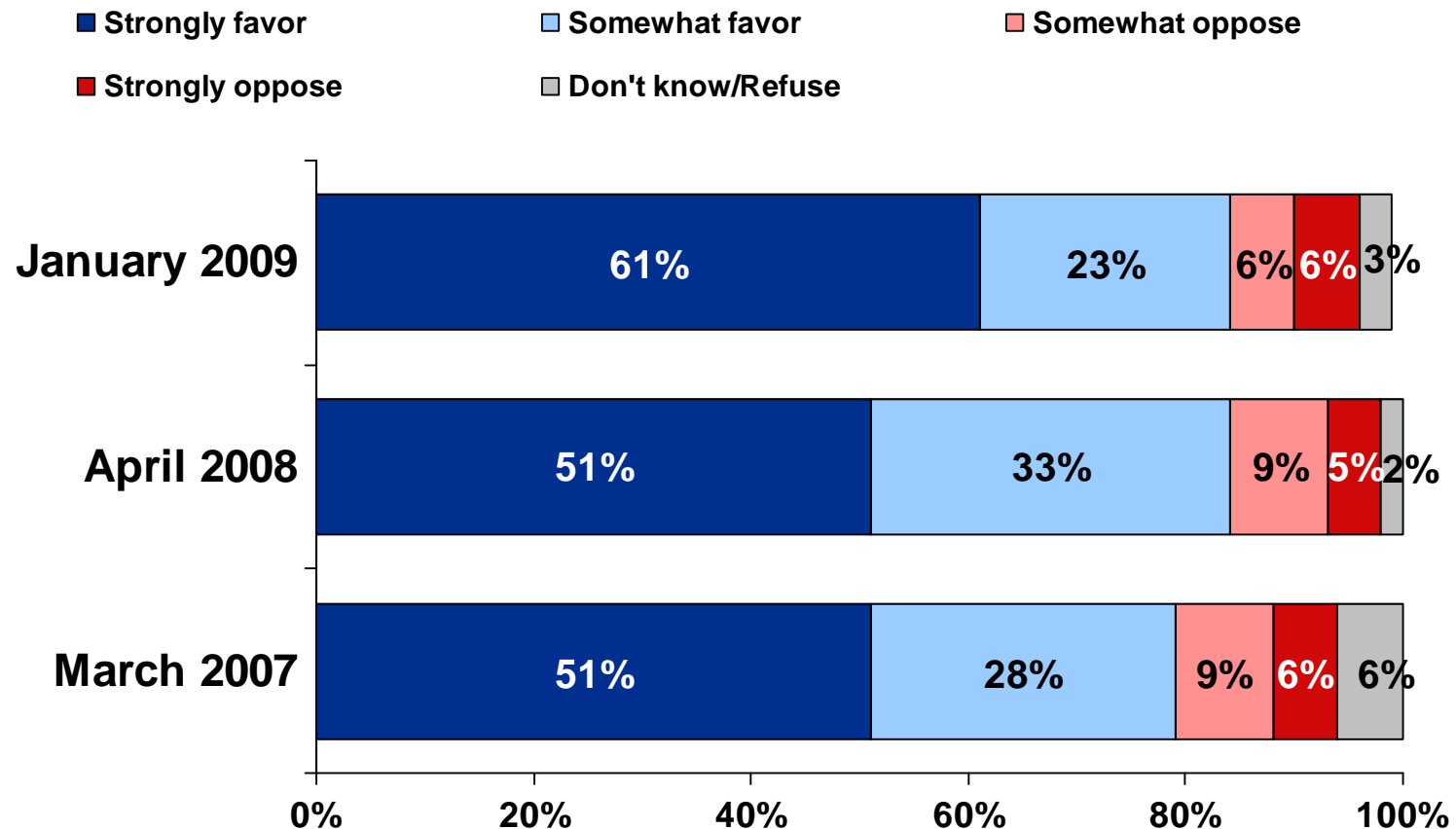
Based on this information would you favor or oppose renewing licenses for existing nuclear energy plants in Vermont and Massachusetts?



On the issue of liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals, supporters point to the fact that LNG currently supplies 30% of the region's natural gas on a cold winter day, and that they have a proven track record of safety all over the world, and that we need to expand supplies of natural gas. Opponents point to safety concerns like vulnerability to a terrorist threat. Based on this information would you favor or oppose building new LNG terminals?

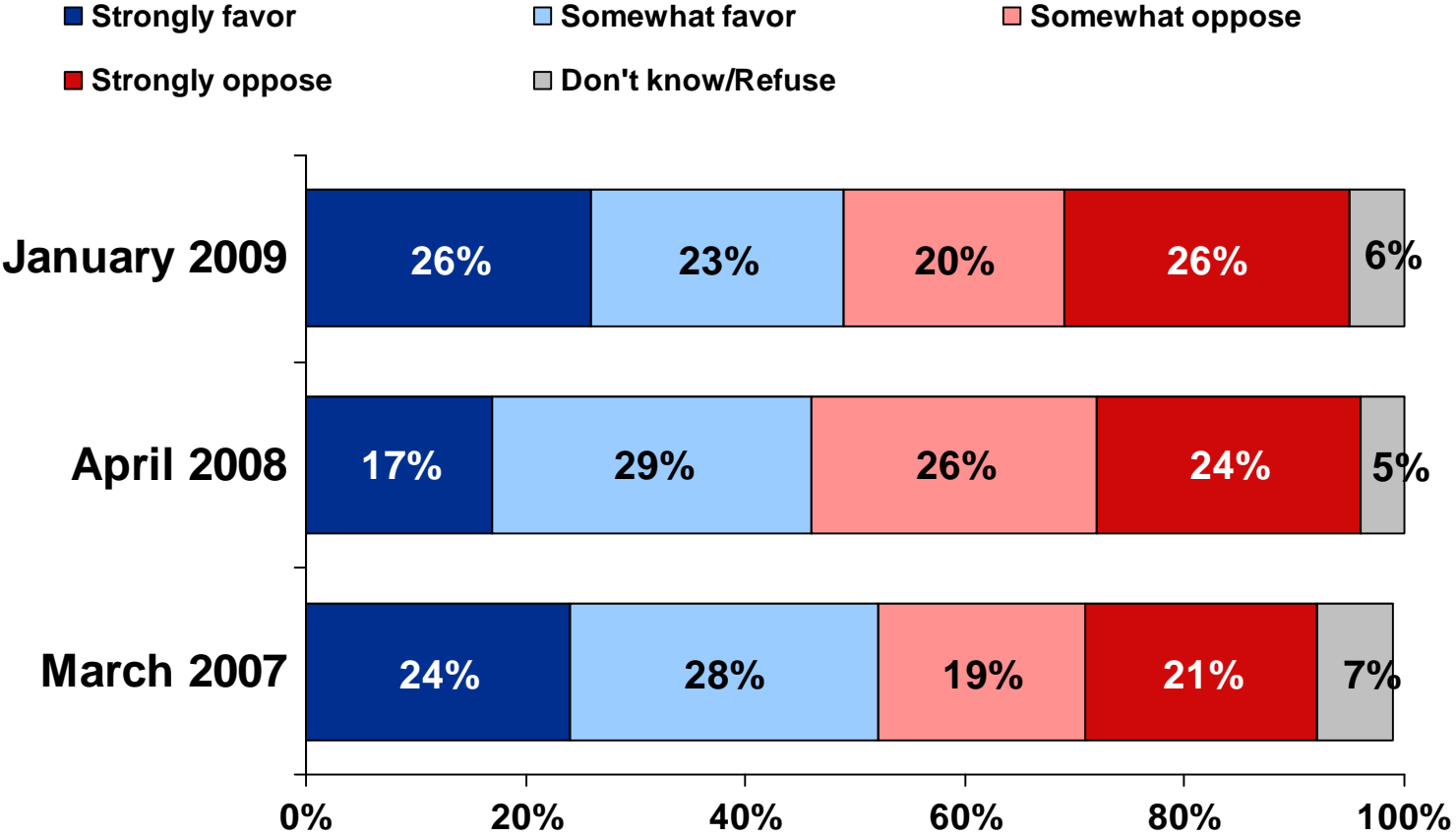


On the issue of large wind farms, supporters point to the fact wind farms don't emit greenhouse gases, that the wind is free and unlimited, and that new advances in technology make this a more viable source of electricity. Opponents say wind farms are ugly, that they are expensive even with taxpayer subsidies, and that they only operate about 30% of the time. Based on this information would you favor or oppose building large wind farms?



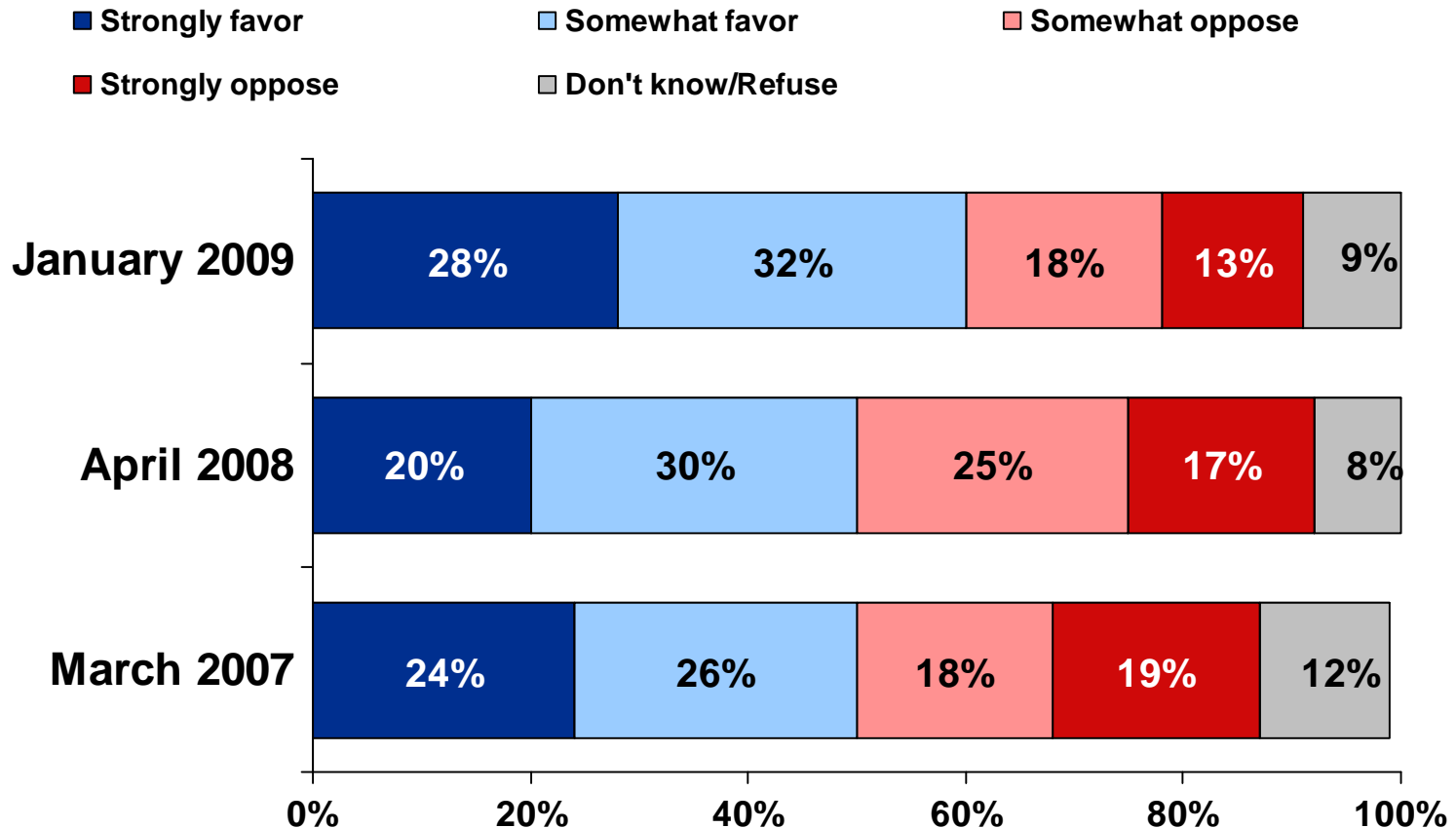
On the issue of clean coal plants, supporters point to the fact that clean coal plants reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 50% from existing coal technology, that coal is a low cost, domestic source of fuel, and that they are easy to build and operate. Opponents say clean coal plants still produce 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?



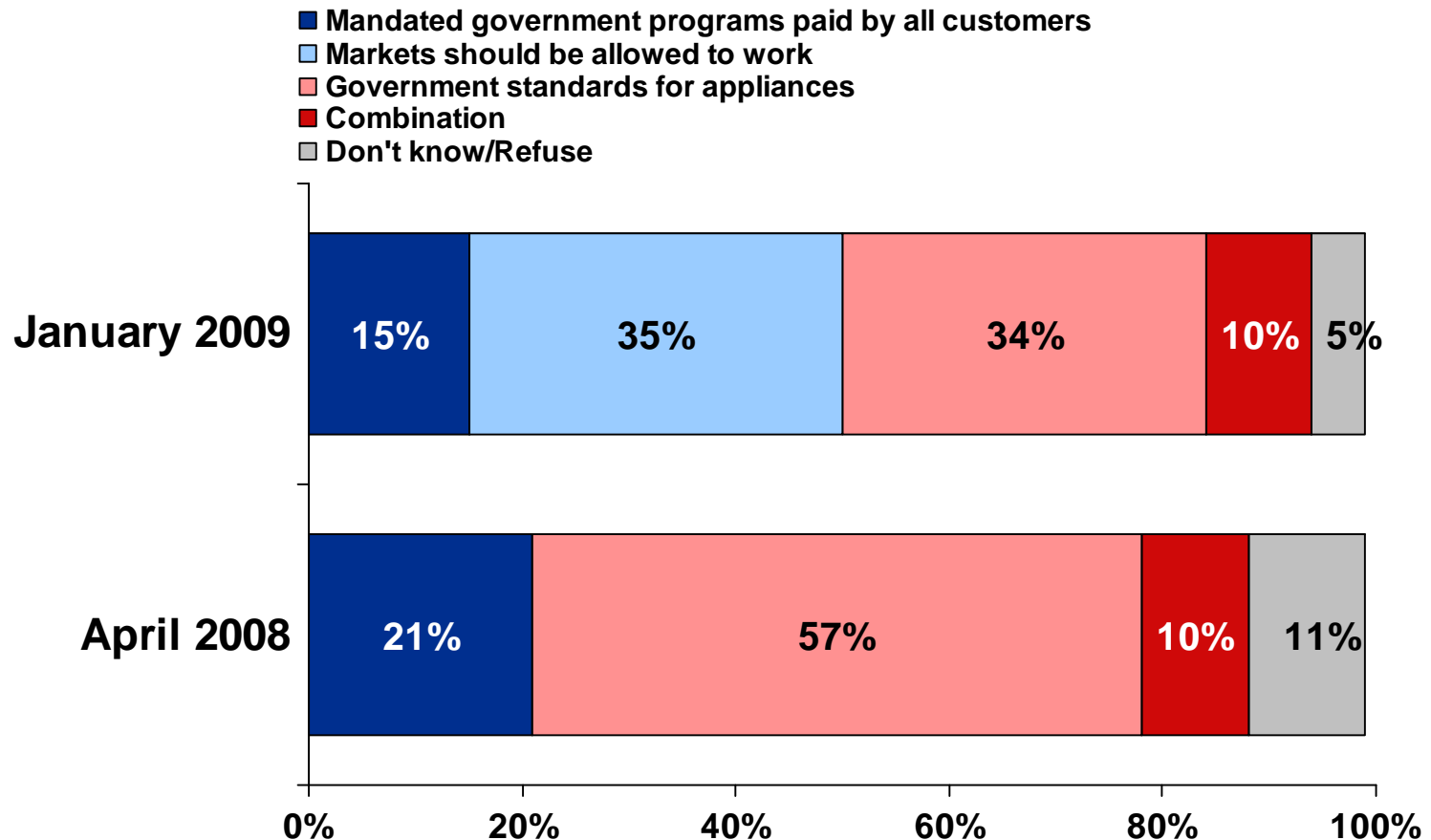
On the issue of new above-ground electricity transmission lines, supporters say congestion on existing transmission lines costs consumers hundreds of millions of dollars each year and jeopardizes reliability, and that new lines would solve this. In addition, new lines could bring in electricity generated by renewable hydroelectric and wind facilities in Canada as well as from wind farms located in the mid-west. Opponents say transmission lines are ugly, require rights of way through many communities, pose health risks and their expensive construction could be avoided if we simply reduce our use of electricity.

Based on this information would you favor or oppose building new above-ground electricity transmission lines?



On the issue of decreasing the amount of electricity that we use, some people argue that mandated government programs paid by all consumers on their monthly bill are needed to encourage efficiency and help finance measures by homeowners and businesses. Other people argue that government appliance standards—like for washing machines—can have the same effect and although the appliance may be more expensive, the choice is in the hands of the consumer. Still others say that we should rely on the marketplace with its profit motive to introduce more energy efficient appliances and everyday products.

Which one of these three approaches do you think is the better option?



Even with increased efficiency and conservation, our region will inevitably have to build or purchase new sources of electricity to replace existing plants that will eventually need to be retired. I'm going to read you some comparative options that offer a choice between two different energy technologies.

For each paired choice, please select the one that seems better to you:

