



New England Energy Alliance

Results of New England Consumer Survey on Energy

**Prepared by
Opinion Dynamics Corporation**

May 2008

About the Survey

- **Telephone Interview Dates – April 11-17, 2008**
 - 600 interviews completed in New England
 - Connecticut – 139
 - Maine – 68
 - Massachusetts – 263
 - New Hampshire – 63
 - Rhode Island – 38
 - Vermont – 29
- **Tracking data shown for past studies conducted in New England in March 2007 and March 2005**
- **Tracking data for national study conducted March 27–31, 2008**
 - 1,000 interviews completed nationally
 - Northeast – 182
 - Midwest – 248
 - South – 375
 - West – 194

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

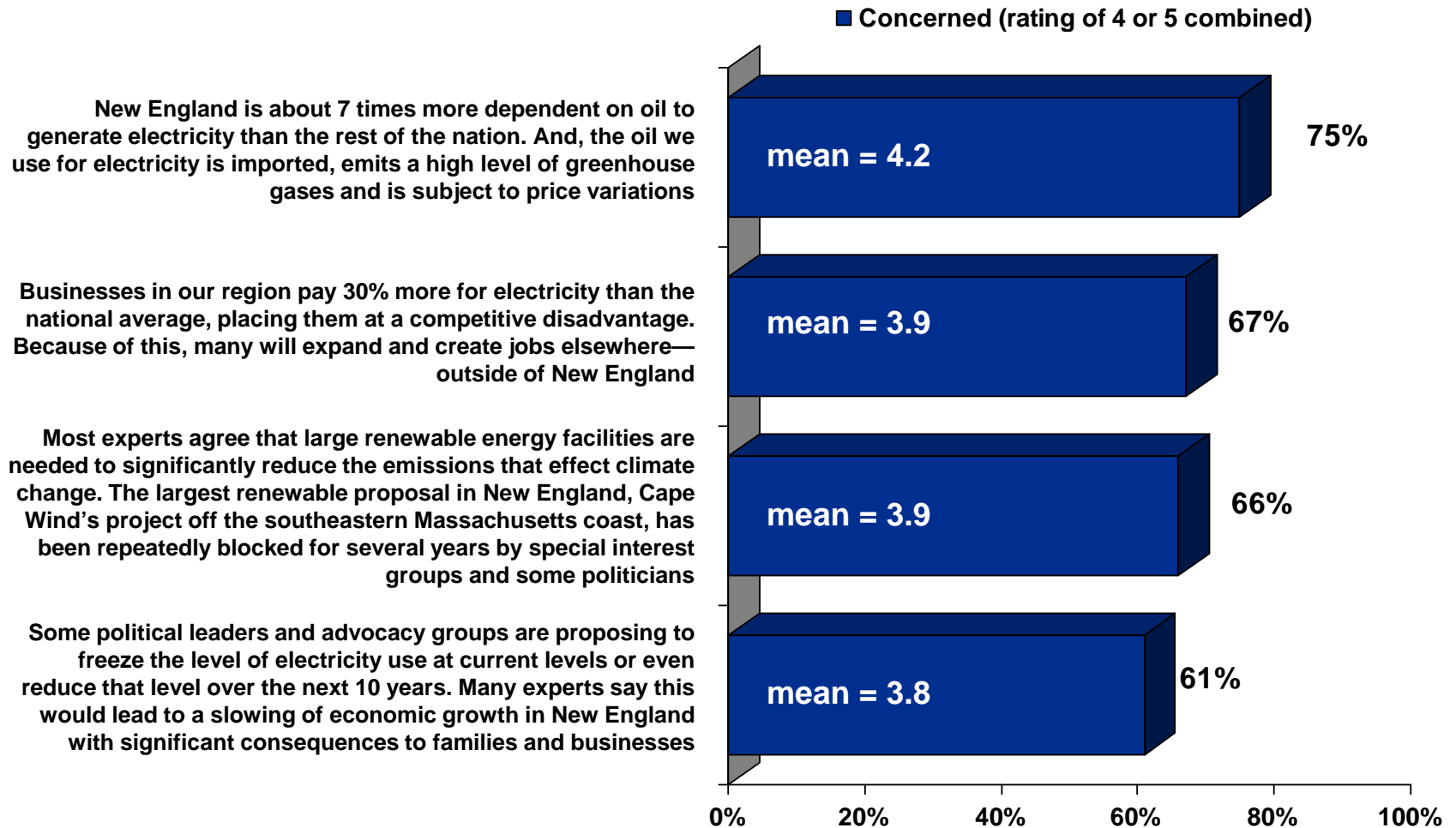
	April 2008	March 2007
Economy/Jobs	50%	22%
High energy prices (gas, heating, oil, etc.)	20	12
Health care concerns	6	12
Taxes/Government spending	5	12
Housing costs	3	5
Environmental issues	3	6
Iraq/war	2	8
Education	2	3
Cost of living	1	na
All of the above	1	na
Other	3	8
Not sure/Refused	4	10

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

	April 2008	March 2007	March 2005
Gasoline prices	44%	34%	41%
High cost of home heating	23	na	na
Electricity prices	8	na	na
Global warming/Greenhouse	5	7	na
Unreliable supply	3	6	10
General environmental concerns	3	5	5
Oil dependence	1	2	1
More alternative/renewable energy	4	na	na
Cost of energy/fuel	1	na	na
Wind power/farms	1	na	na
All of the above	1	na	na
Cost of living	1	na	na
Conservation	1	na	na
Cost of oil	1	na	na
Other	2	2	5
Not sure/Refused	2	8	4

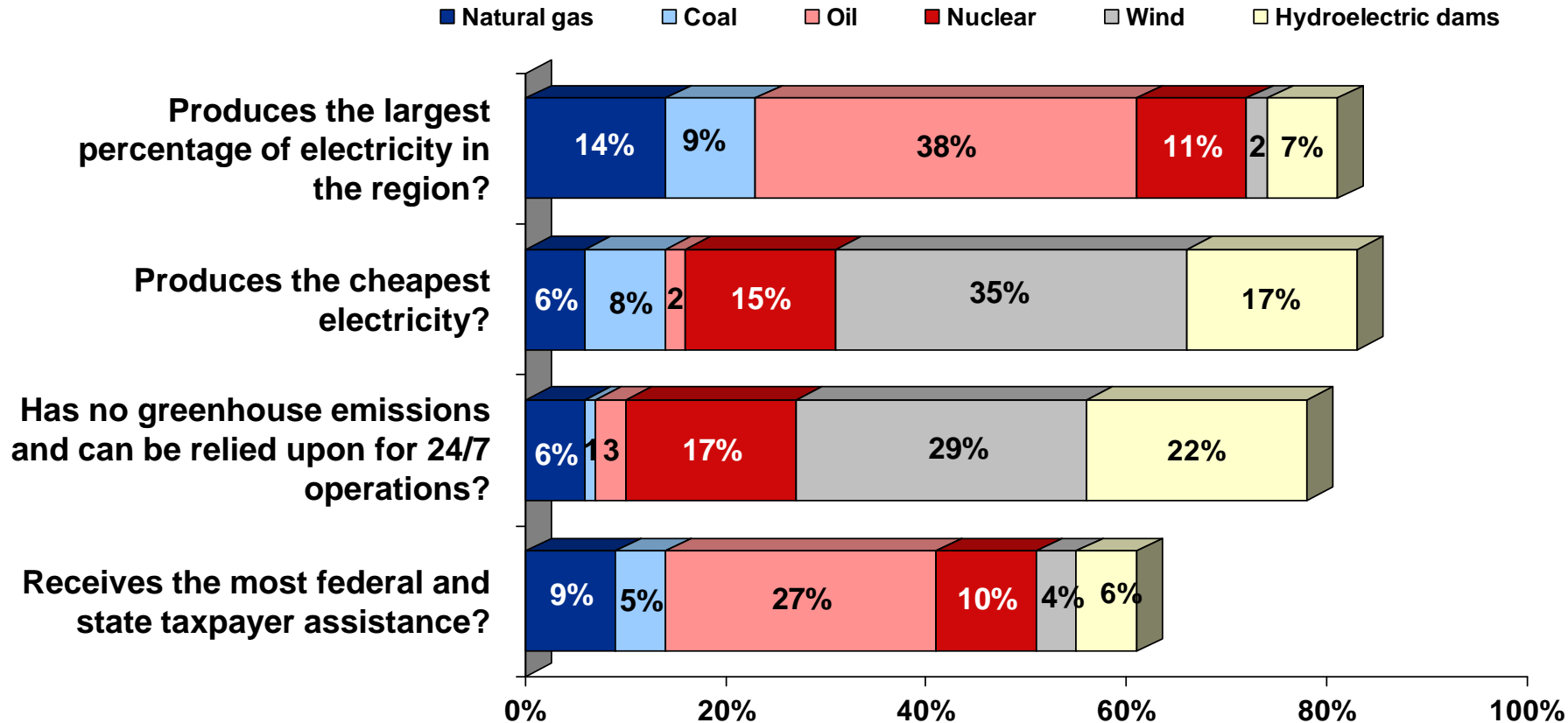
Much of the energy used by businesses and homes in New England is delivered in the form of electricity. Electricity is produced from numerous fuels and methods including natural gas, coal, oil, nuclear, wind, and hydroelectric dams. I'm going to read you several issues that have been frequently discussed about the generation of electricity in New England over the past year.

Using a scale of 1=*not concerned at all* and 5=*extremely concerned* Please rate your level of concern about each issue.



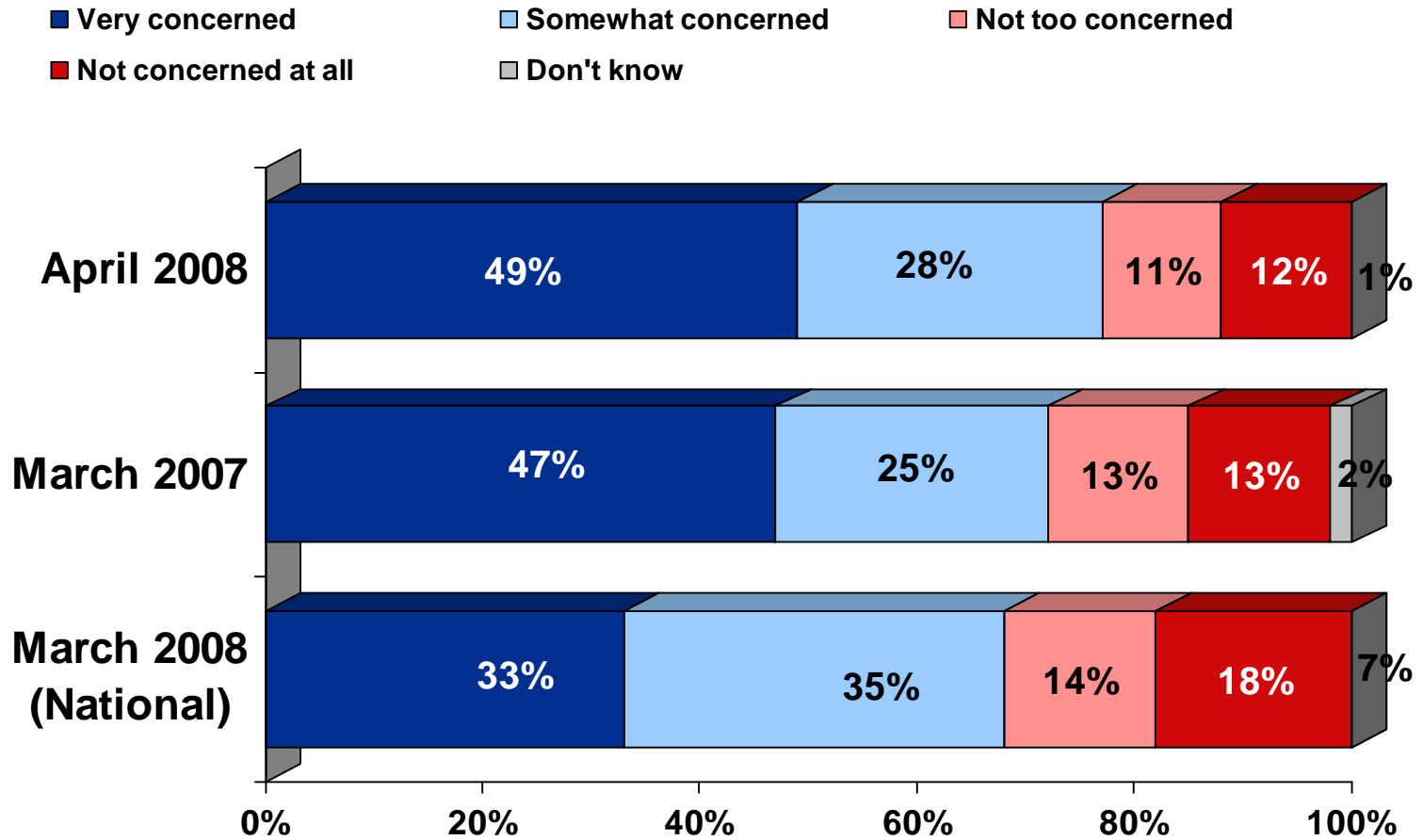
Please use your best judgment on the following questions concerning generating facilities for the six most significant sources of electricity supply in New England. Those sources are, in no particular order, natural gas, coal, oil, nuclear, wind, and hydroelectric dams.

Which type of generating facility...

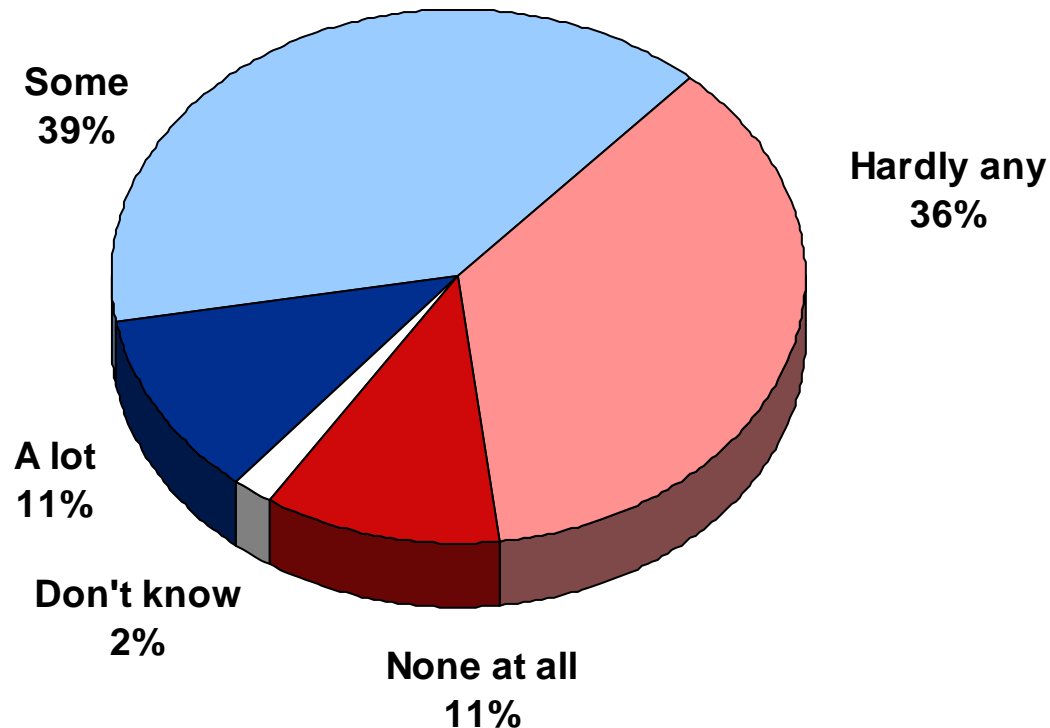


One topic that has been discussed a lot lately is global warming or climate change.

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

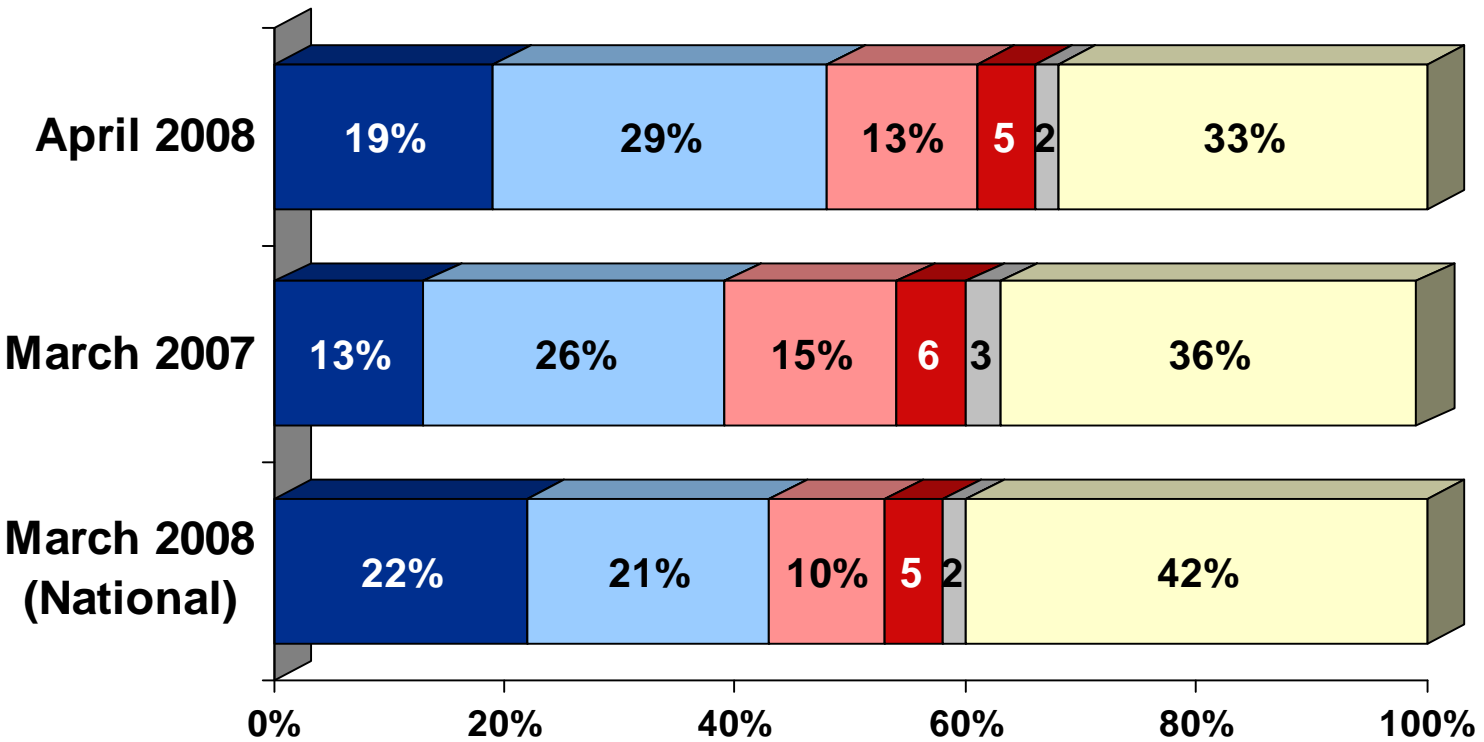


How much do you think has been done by energy companies, utilities and state governments to help limit emissions of carbon dioxide from power plants—emissions that are believed to contribute to global warming?

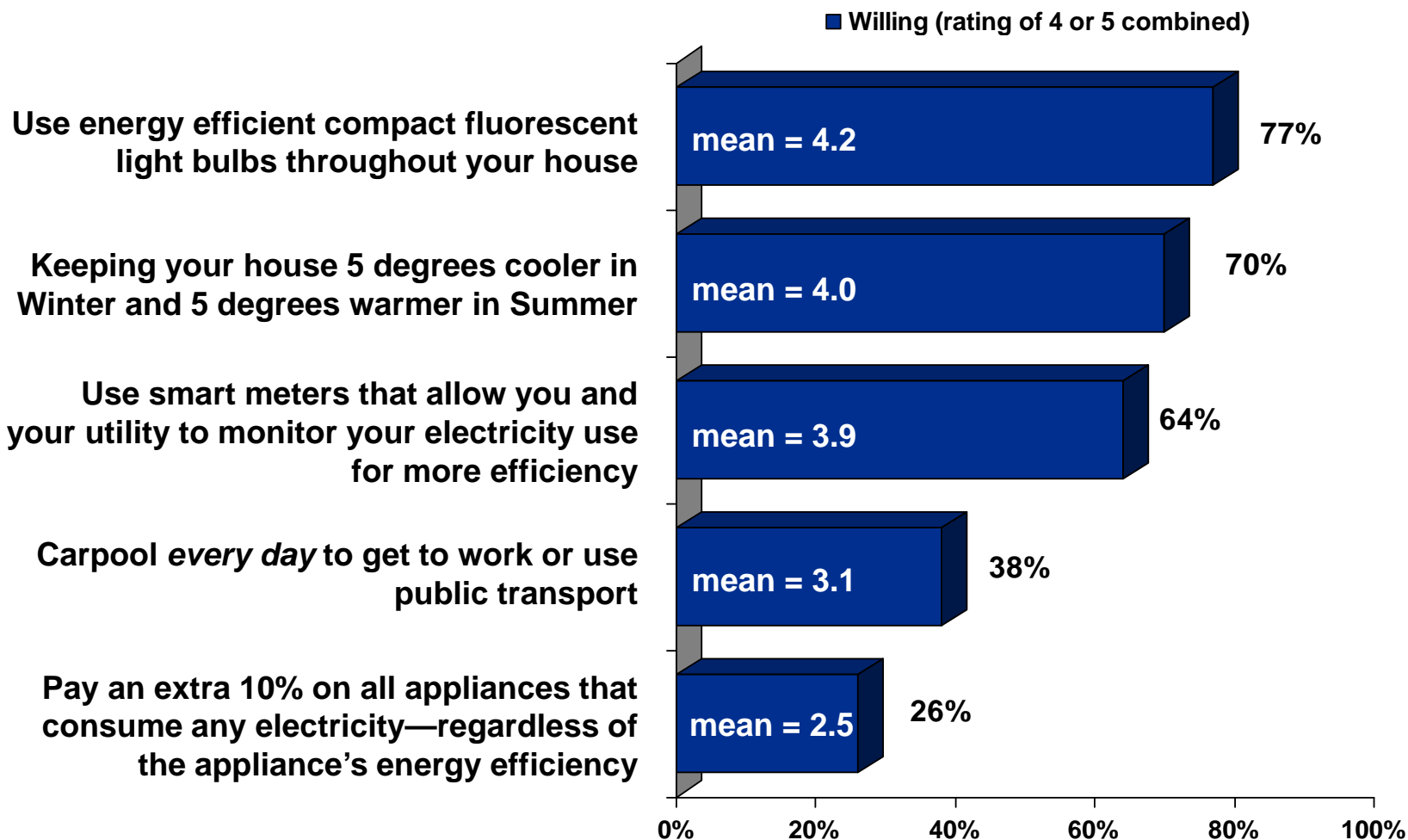


About how much extra per month would you be willing to pay on your electric bill to support utility and government efforts to limit the effects of global warming by reducing carbon dioxide emissions from power plants?

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

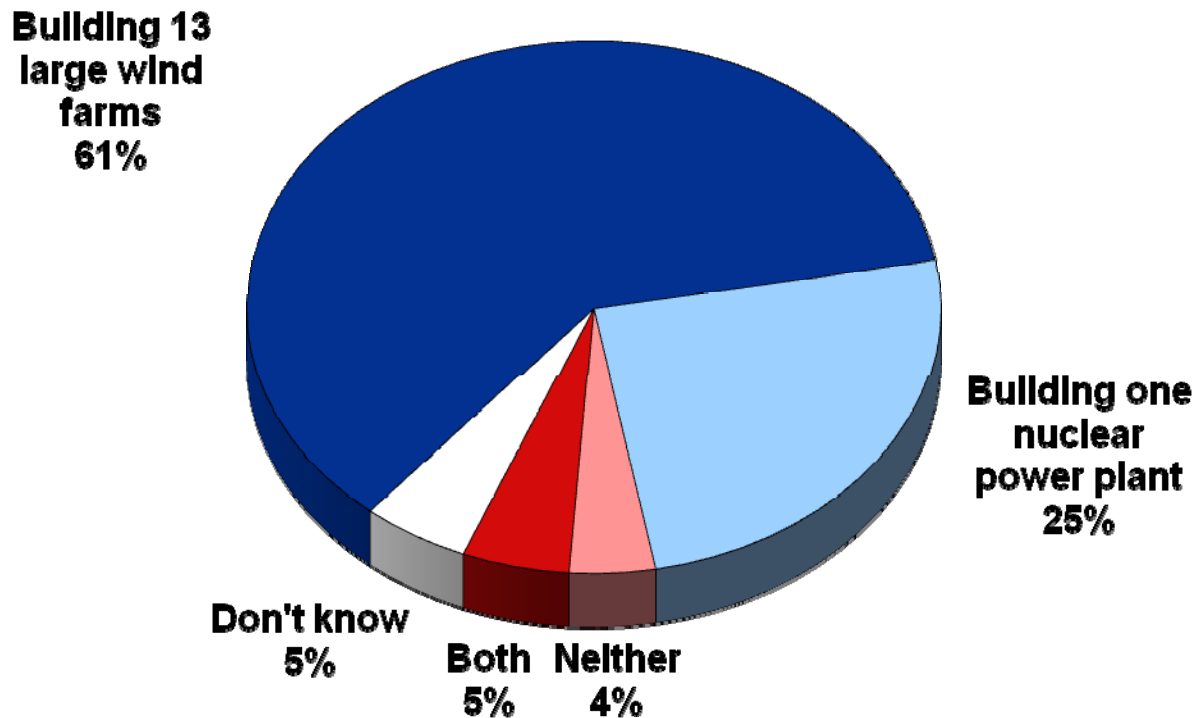


Using a scale of 1=*not willing at all* and 5=*extremely willing*
Please rate your level of willingness to adopt the following
lifestyle changes to help limit the impact of global
warming and climate change

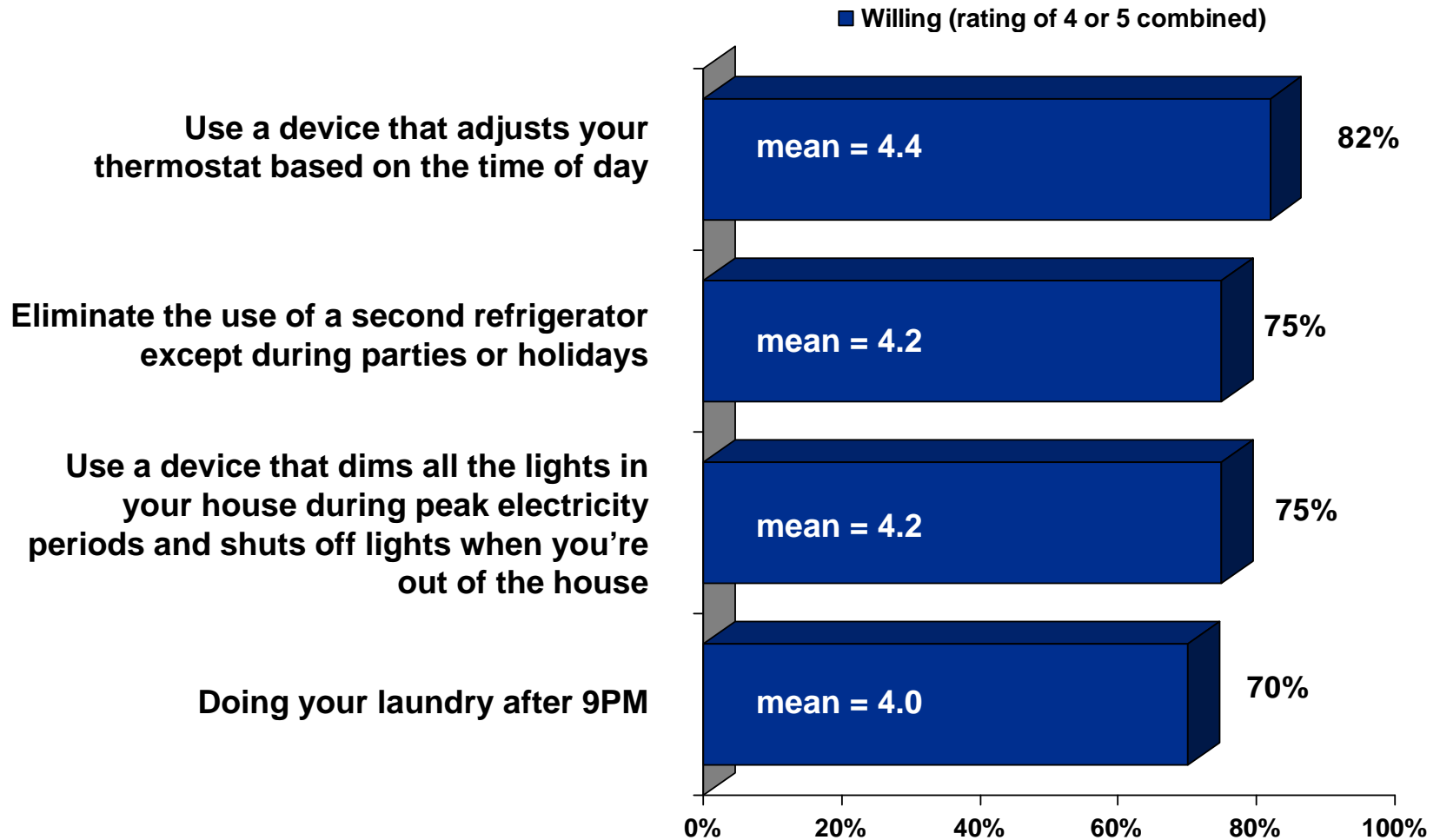


All six New England states have entered into an agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity plants by 10% over the next decade. One recent study shows that we would need about a dozen large wind farms—each about the size of the Cape Wind Project—to achieve that goal and also meet the growing demand for electricity. Studies have also shown that the construction of just a single large nuclear power plant would achieve the same goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and meeting the increased demand for electricity.

Which option do you prefer to be built here in New England: 13 large wind farms or one new nuclear plant?

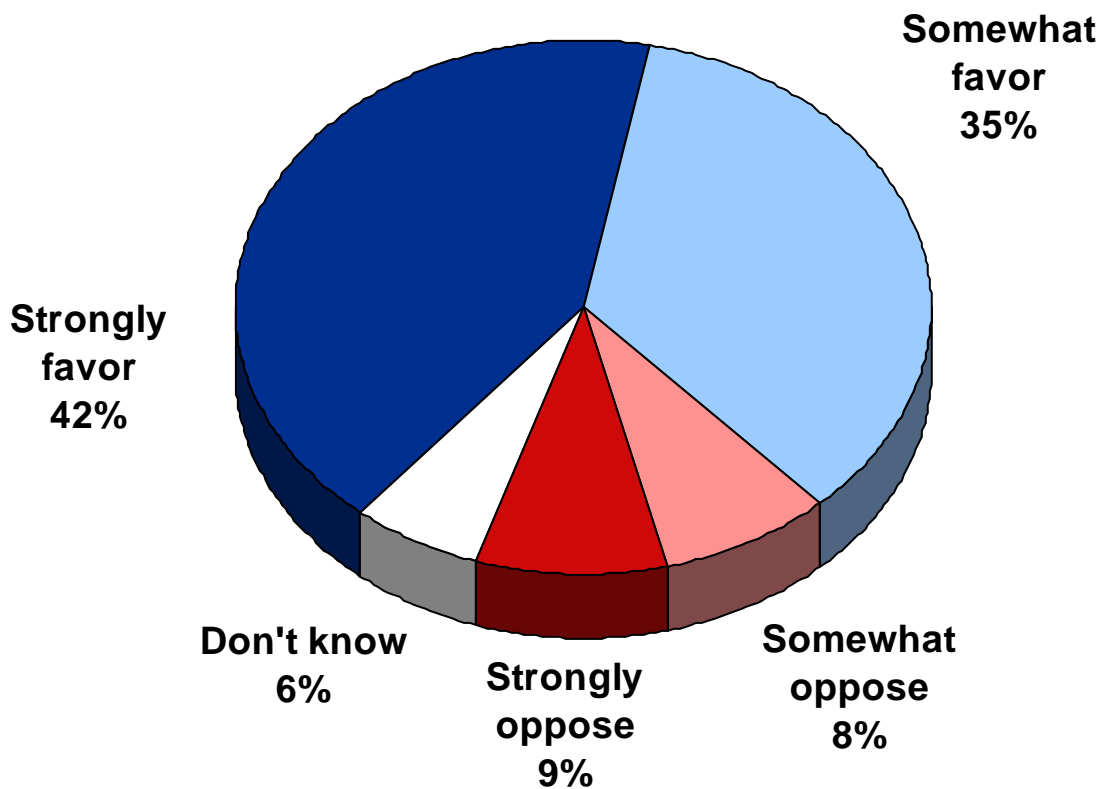


Using a scale of 1=*not willing at all* and 5=*extremely willing*
Please rate your level of willingness to do the following if you knew it would save you \$10 every month on your electricity bill

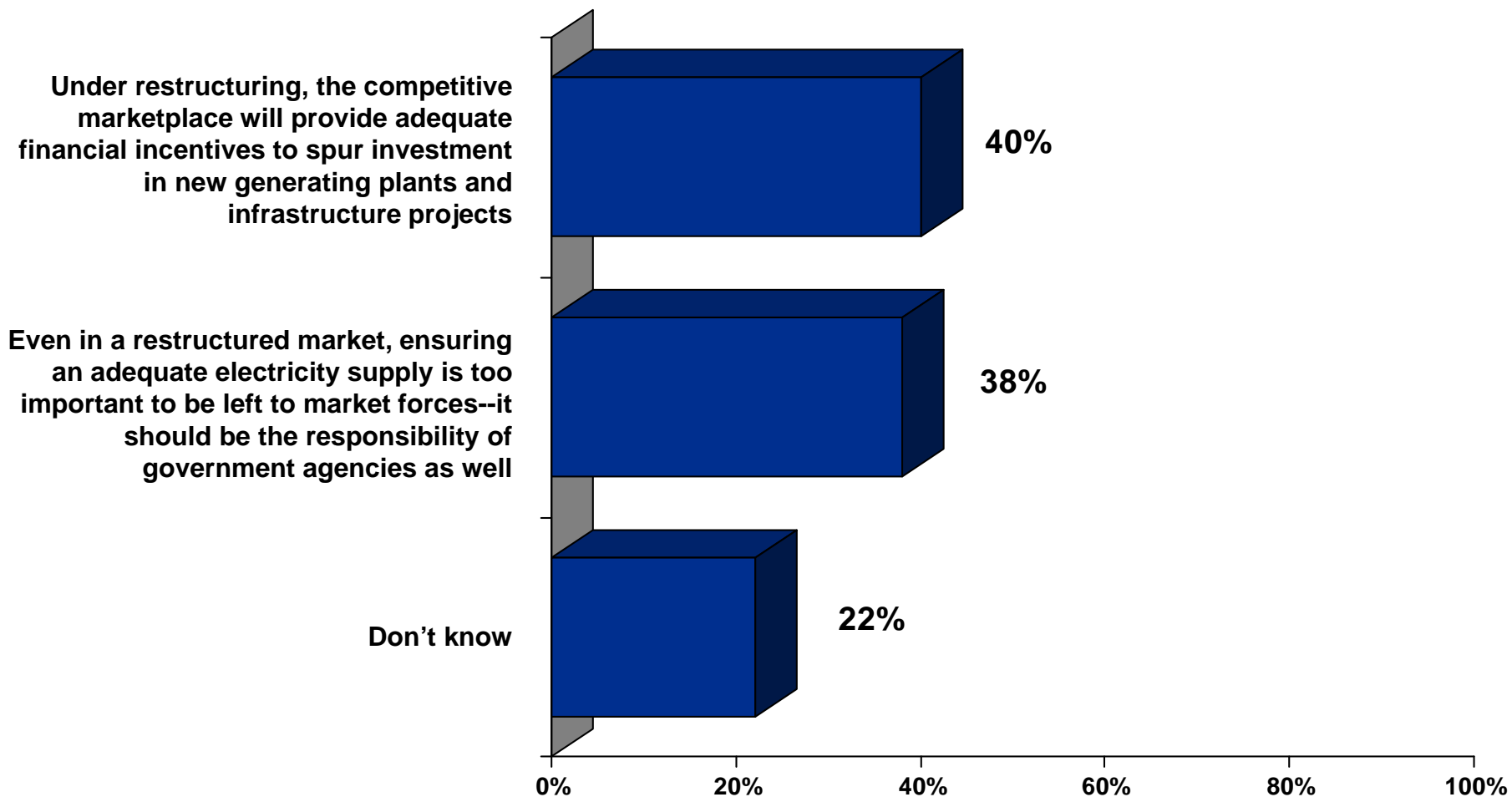


Historically, electricity was delivered by regulated electric utility companies that acted like monopolies. They were mandated by state regulators to build power plants, as well as generate and deliver electricity to homes and businesses. As you may know, electricity restructuring means that rather than 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 would be no more difficult than switching your telephone service from, say, Verizon or Comcast.

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

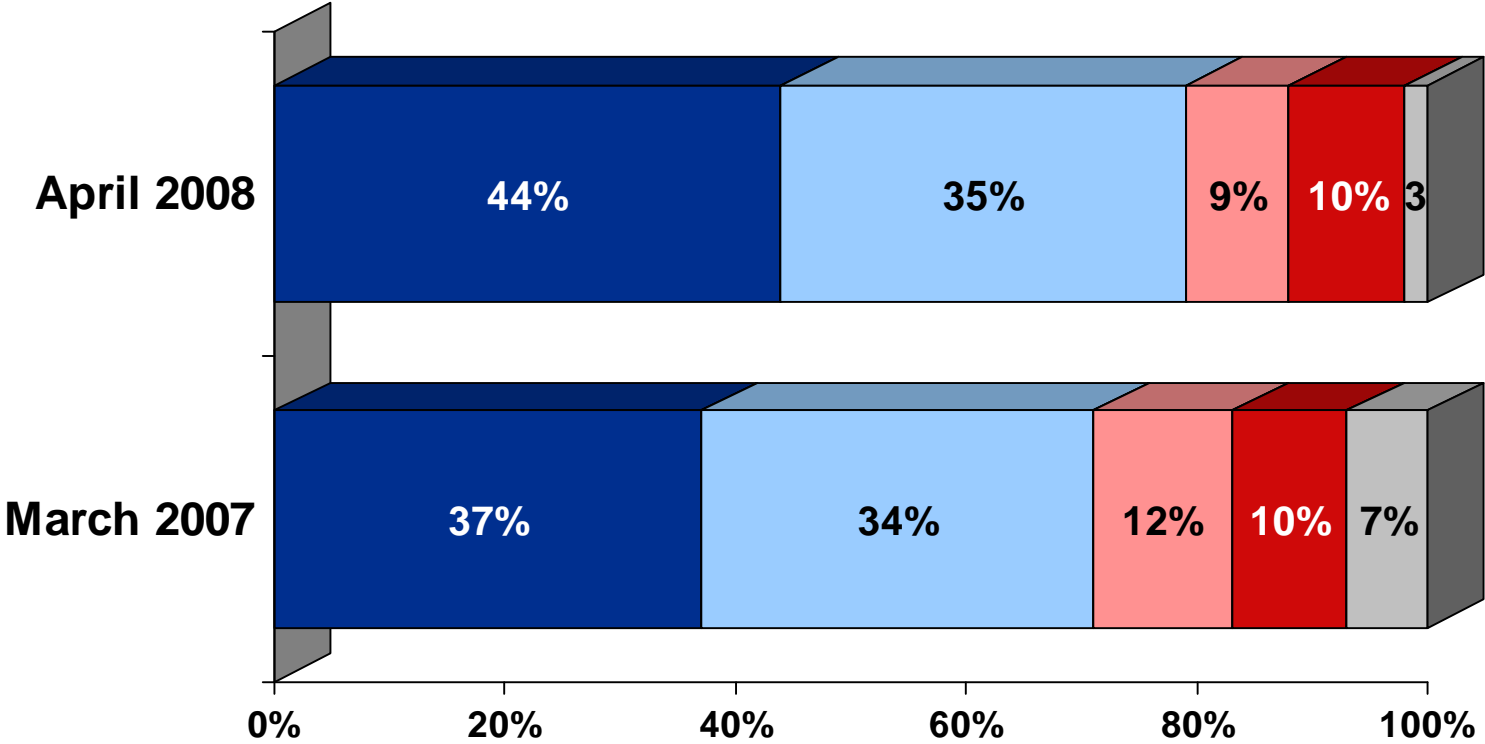


Which of these two statements about restructured electricity markets is closer to your opinion?

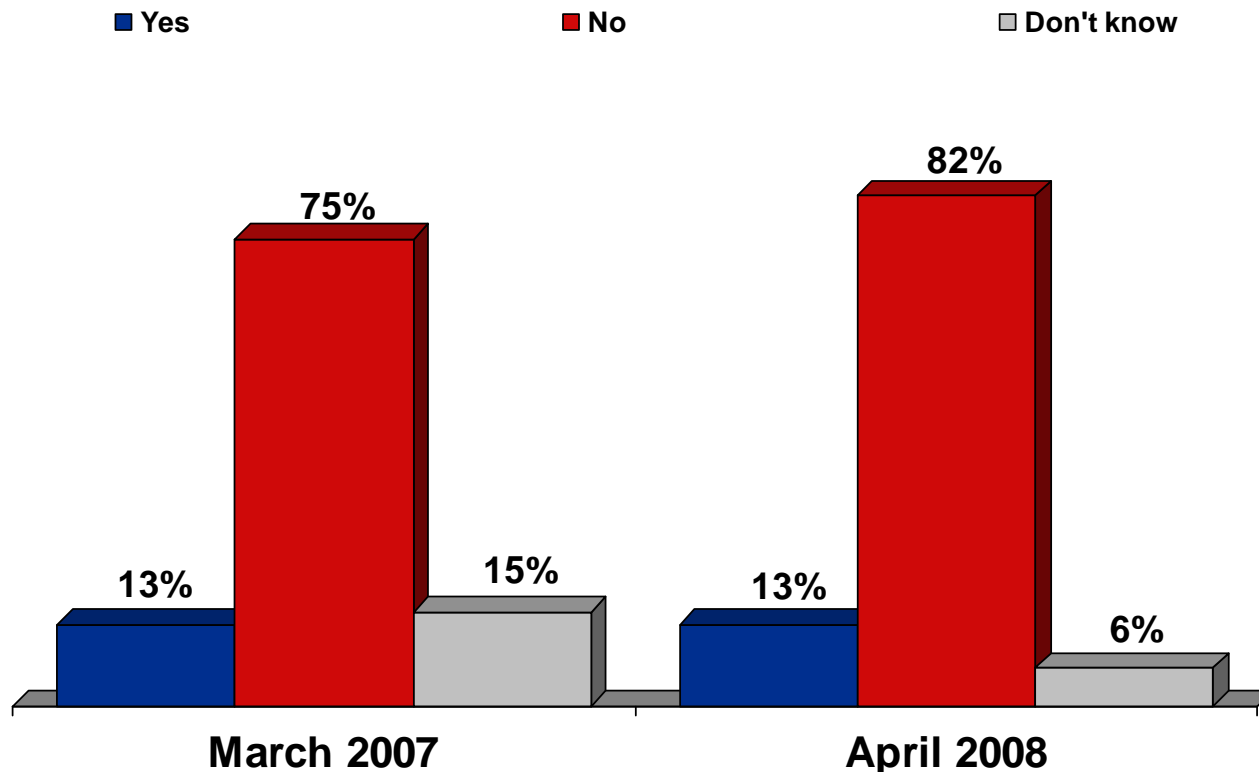


Assuming a monthly electric bill of about \$100, how interested would you be in switching electricity suppliers if you could save 5%—or about \$60 per year—on the electricity costs in your electric bill?

- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not very interested
- Not interested at all
- Don't know



Regardless of your party affiliation or support for a particular individual, do you think the candidates for US President are discussing energy-related issues enough?

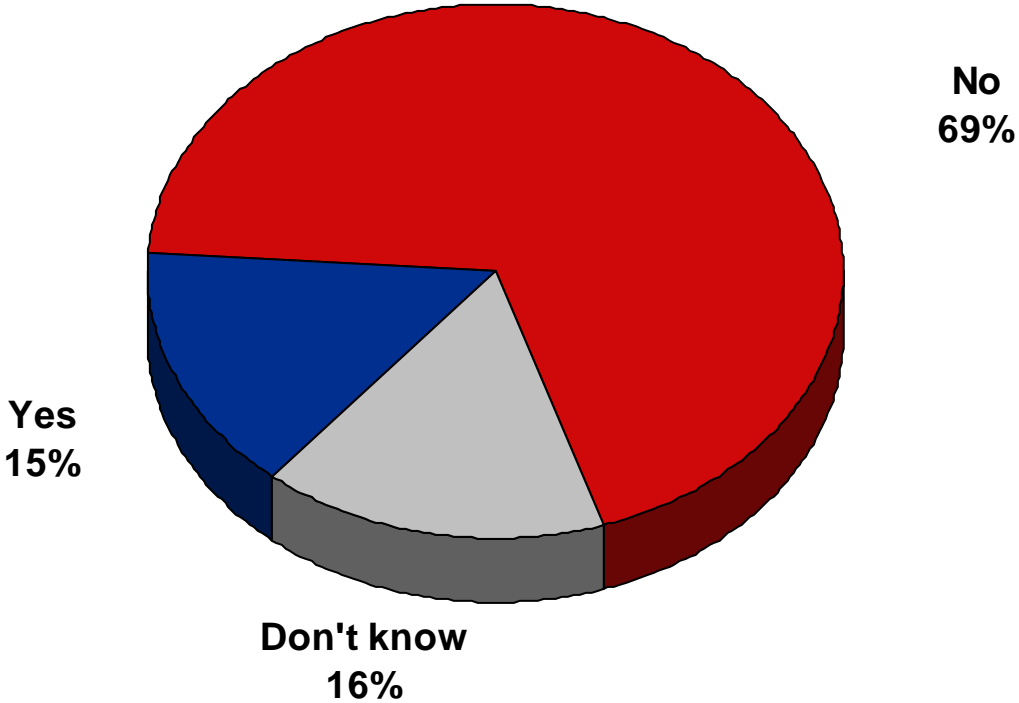


(If Yes to Q27, n=80)

Can you name one proposal involving any form of energy by a specific presidential candidate?

More renewable/alternative energy	3%
Global warming	2
Named candidate(s)	2
McCain: a capping system on carbon emissions	2
McCain: cut gas tax	2
McCain: build more gas plants	2
Obama: control greenhouse gases	1
Obama: oil	1
Obama: energy conservation	1
McCain: energy conservation	1
Wind	1
Obama: alternative energy	1
Clinton: energy and the environment	1
(Don't know/Refused)	81

Do you think your Governor is dealing with energy-related issues enough?



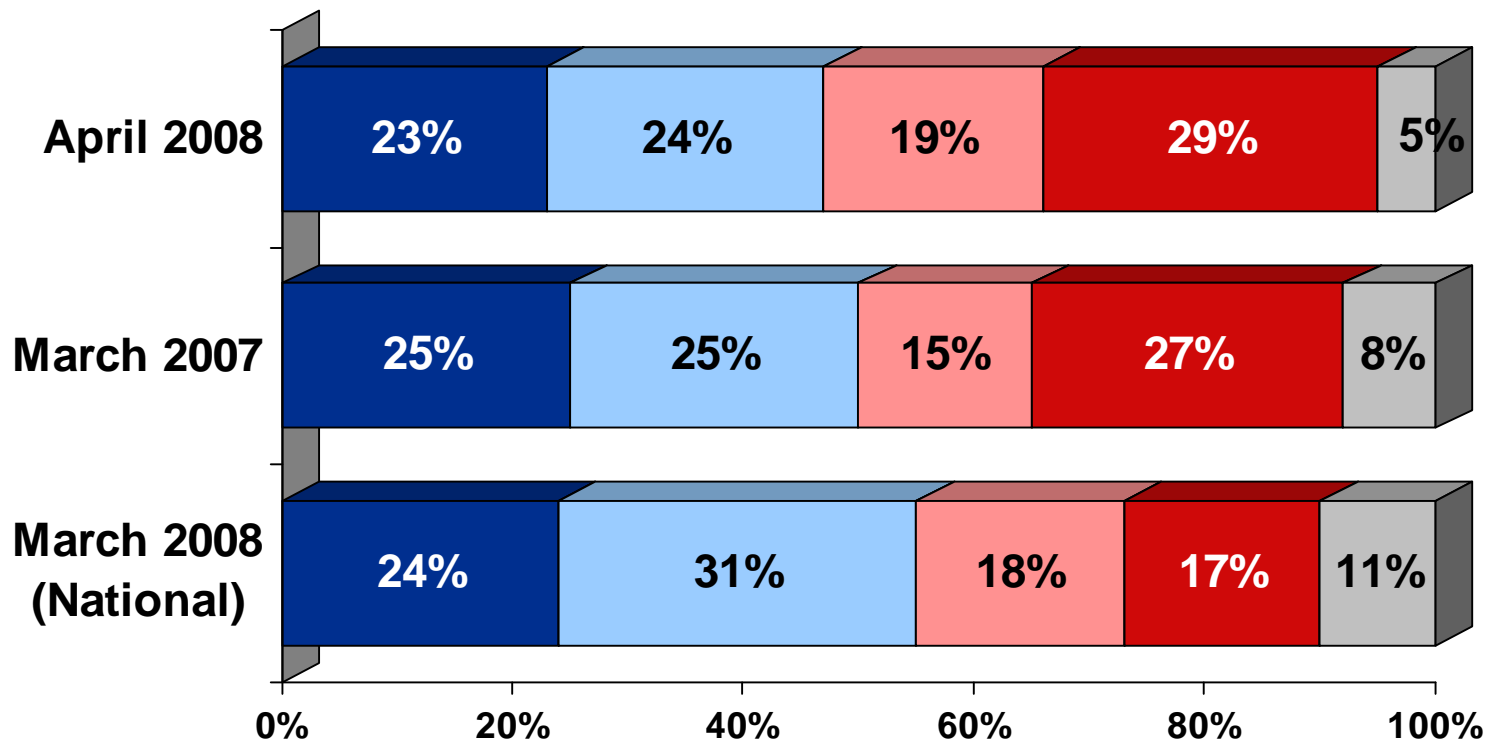
Can you name one proposal involving any form of energy made by your Governor?

Wind/Wind farms	6%
“One thing” program	2
Using broad water	2
Long Island Sound plan	2
Carbon emissions	1
Wind and tidal wave	1
Increase train use	1
Solar panel reimbursement	1
Smart meters	1
Fairpoint telephone proposal	1
None	3
(Don't know/Refused)	79

On the issue of building new nuclear power plants, supporters point to the fact that nuclear plants emit no greenhouse gases, have excellent safety records, that they are being built right now in many countries like Japan, France and the UK and that evolutionary 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, would you favor or oppose building new nuclear power plants?

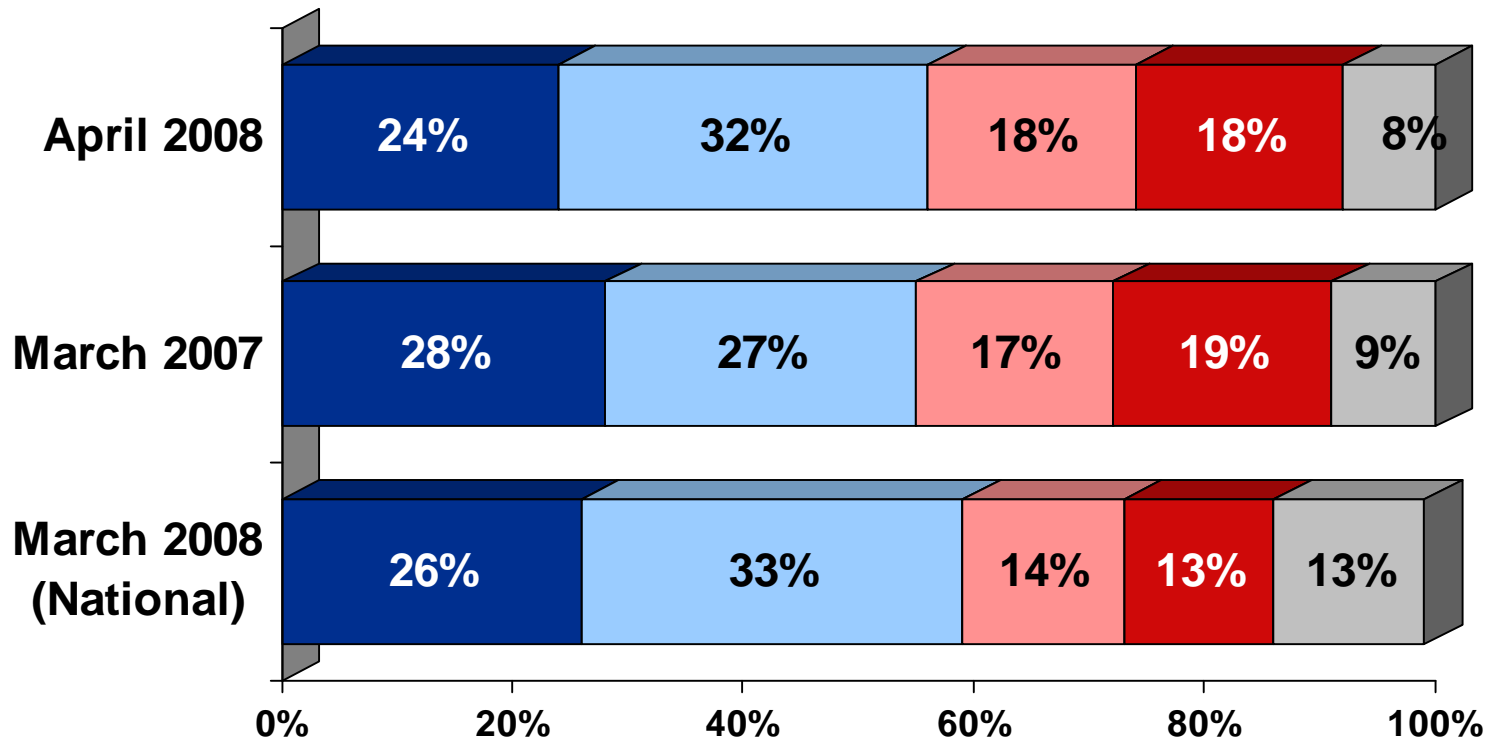
■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose ■ Don't know



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 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 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?

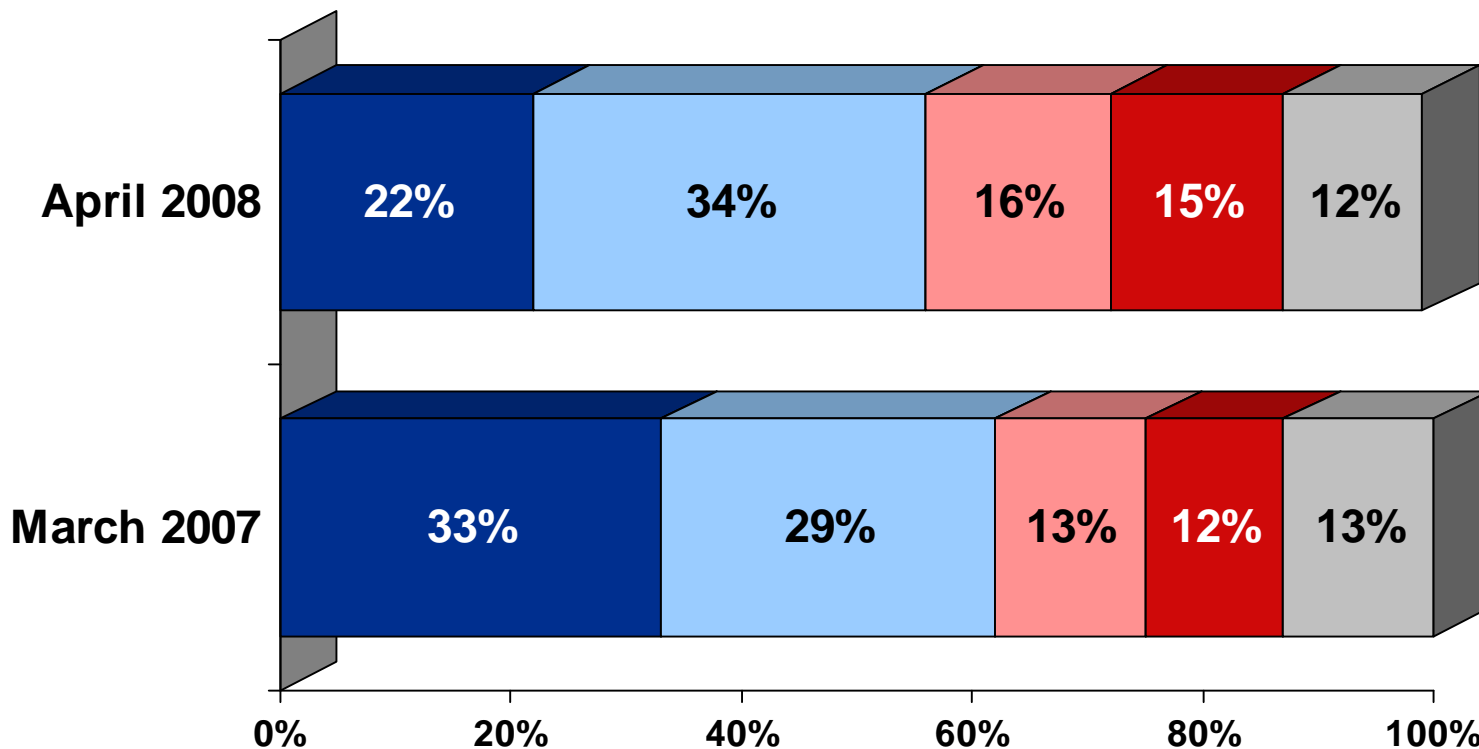
■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose ■ Don't know



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, and 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 threat.

Based on this information would you favor or oppose building LNG facilities?

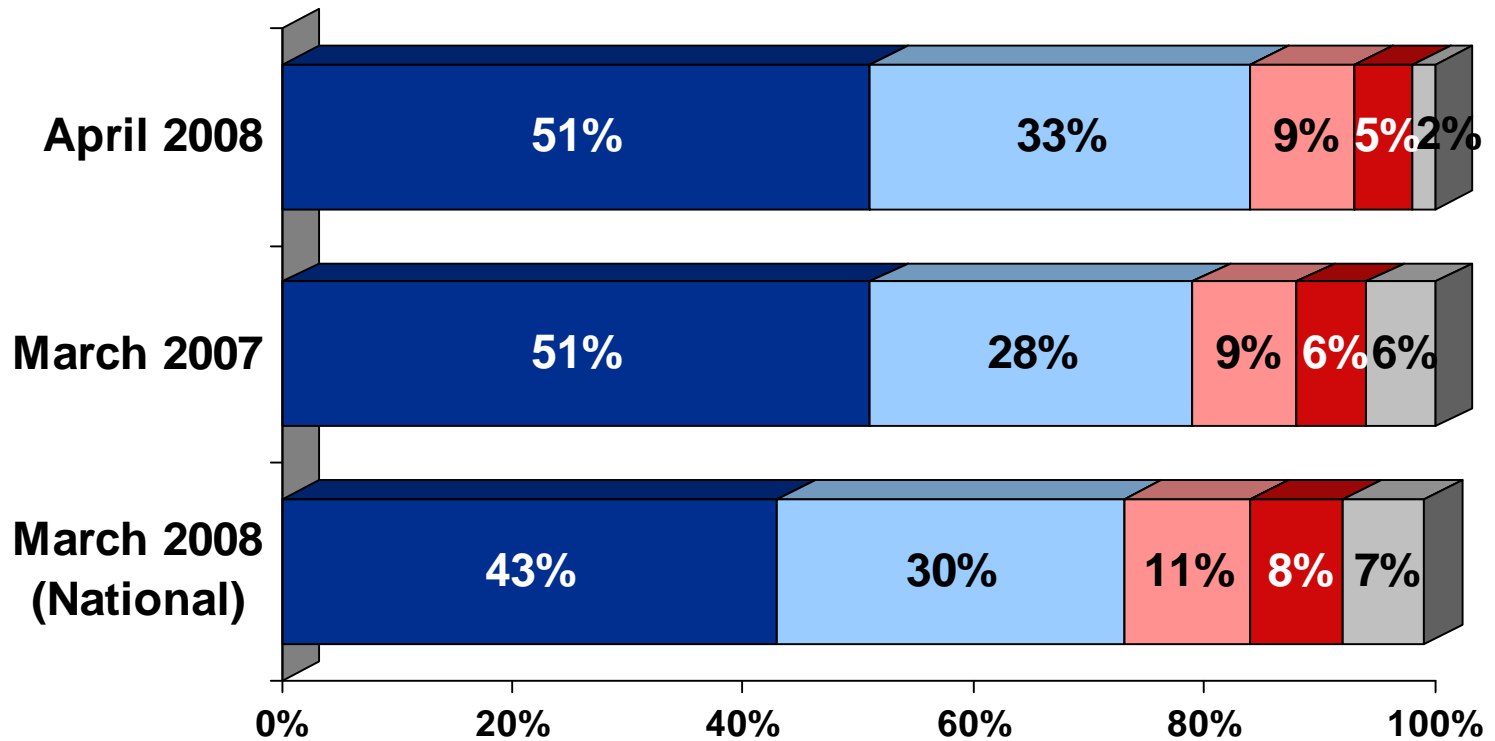
■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose ■ Don't know



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?

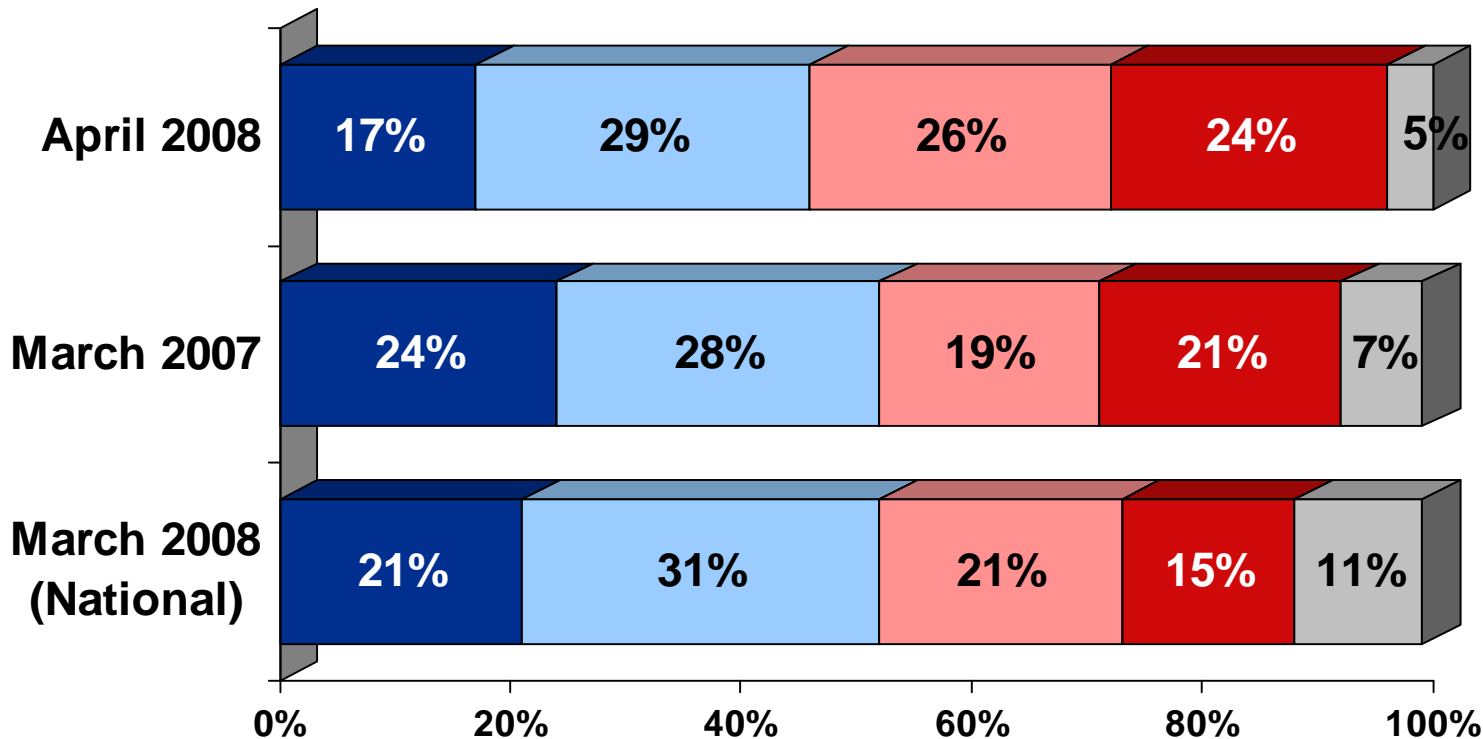
■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose ■ Don't know



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?

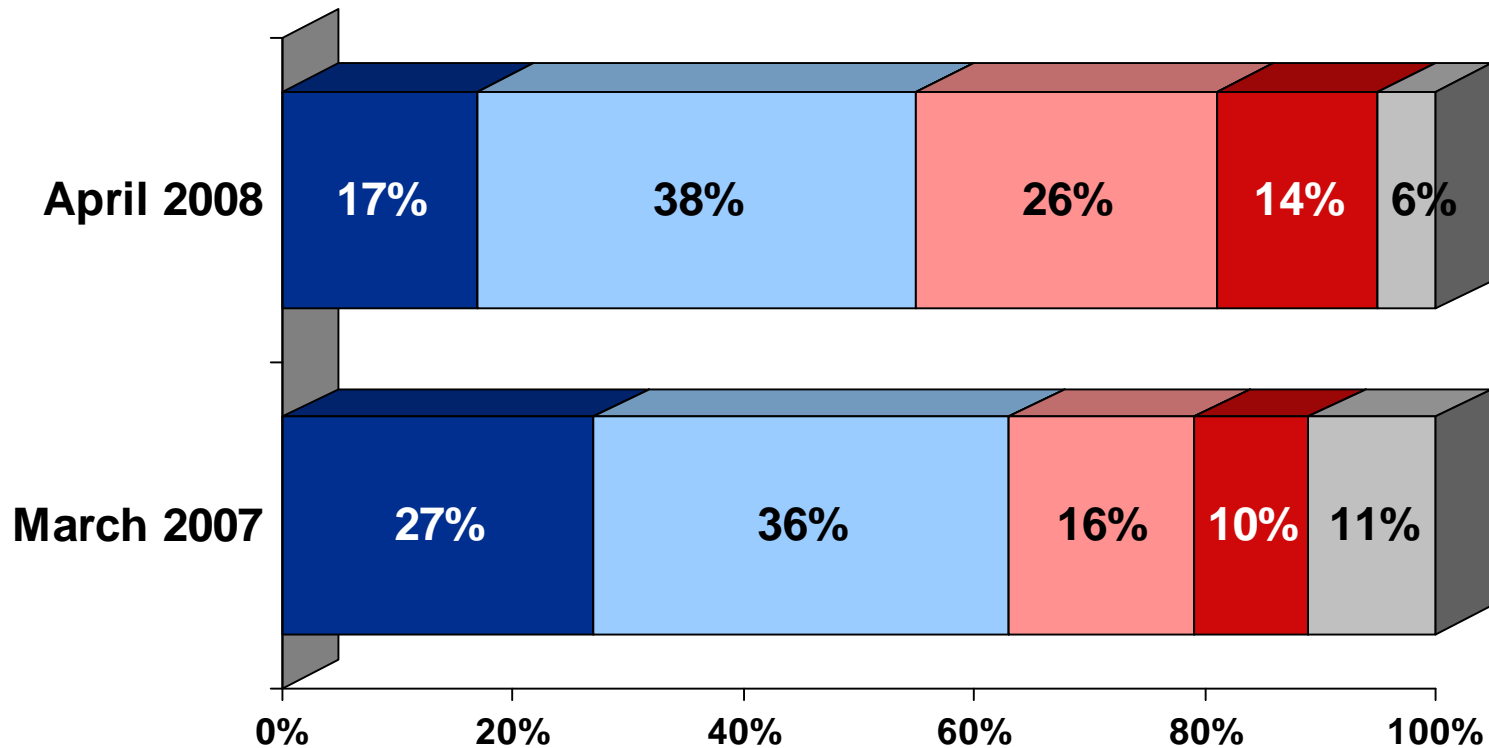
■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose ■ Don't know



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 new natural gas generating plants?

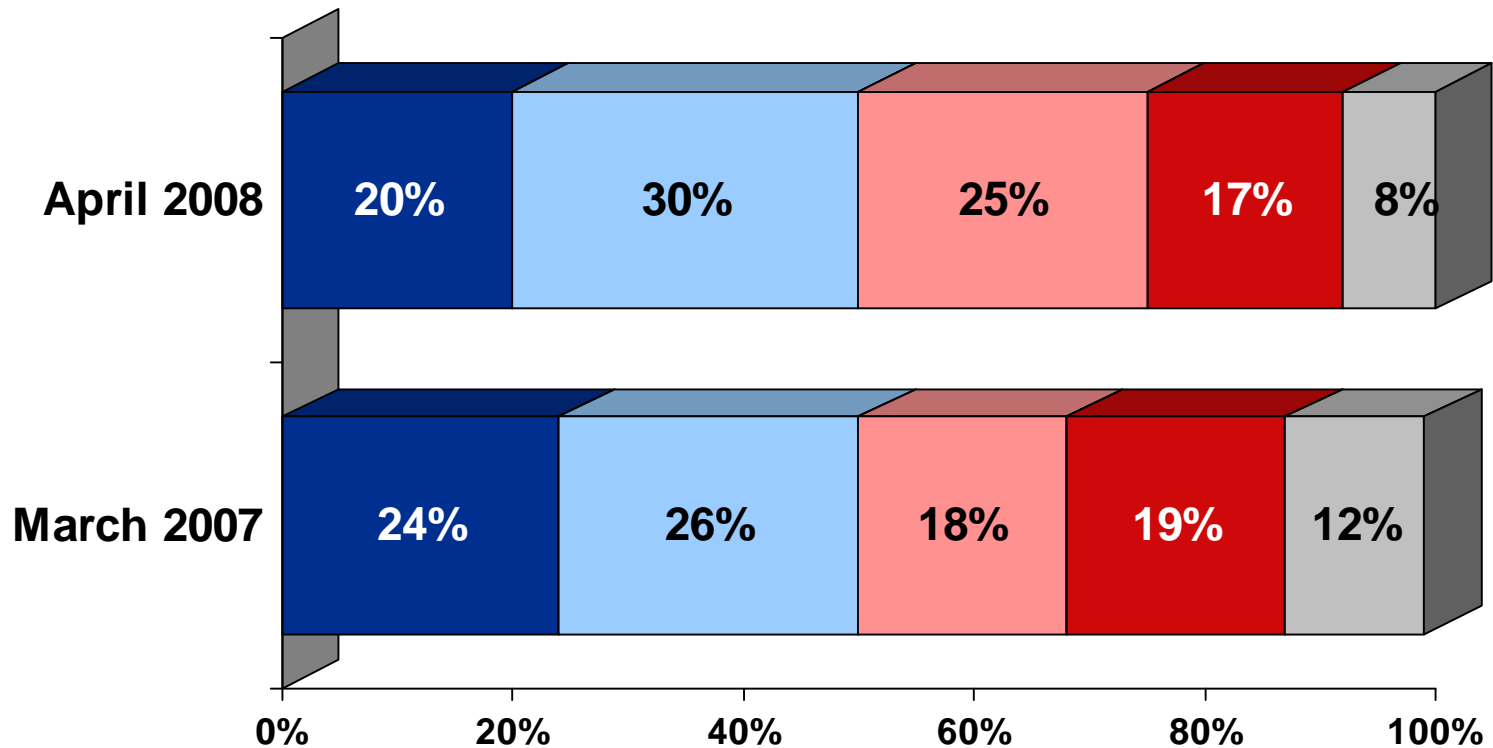
■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose ■ Don't know



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.

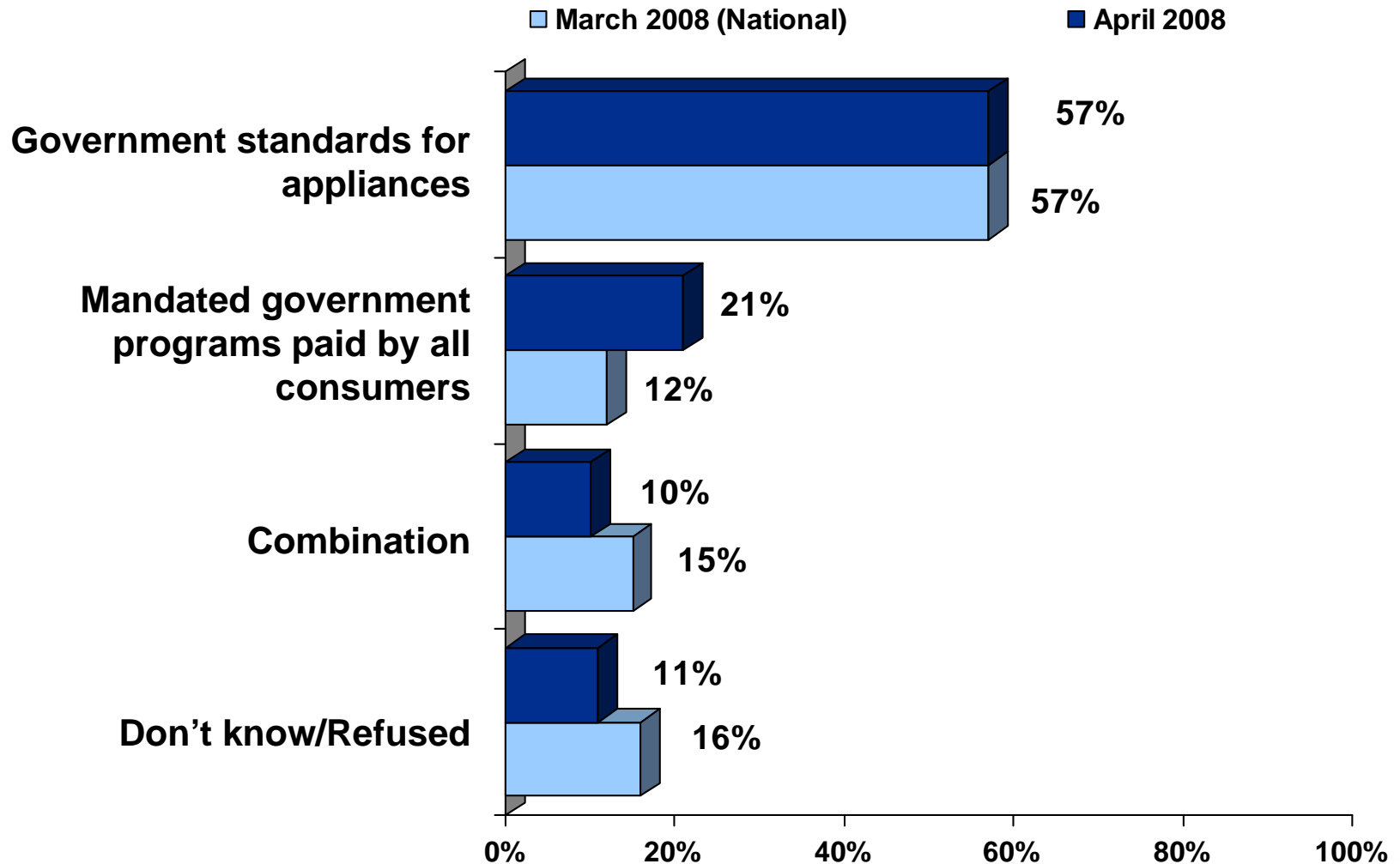
Based on this information would you favor or oppose building new above-ground transmission lines?

■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose ■ Don't know



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.

Which do you think is the better option?



Profile of Sample

Age: 18-25	4%	Party: Democrat	36%
26-35	10	Republican	20
36-55	42	Independent	35
56-64	16		
65+	22	Heat home with natural gas?	
		Yes	32%
Education: HS or less	25%	No/Don't know	68
Some college	19		
College graduate	51	Income: Under \$35,000	15%
		\$35-49,999	11
Environmentalist?		\$50-74,999	15
Yes	62%	\$75,000 or more	26
No/Don't know	38		
		Gender: Female	53%
		Male	47