



New England Energy Alliance
2011 New England Consumer Energy Survey

May 2011

About the Survey

- **Telephone Interview Dates – May 5-19, 2011**
 - 601 interviews completed in New England
 - Connecticut – 141
 - Maine – 68
 - Massachusetts – 260
 - New Hampshire – 61
 - Rhode Island – 40
 - Vermont – 31
- **Tracking data shown for past studies conducted in New England in April 2010, January 2009, April 2008 and March 2007**

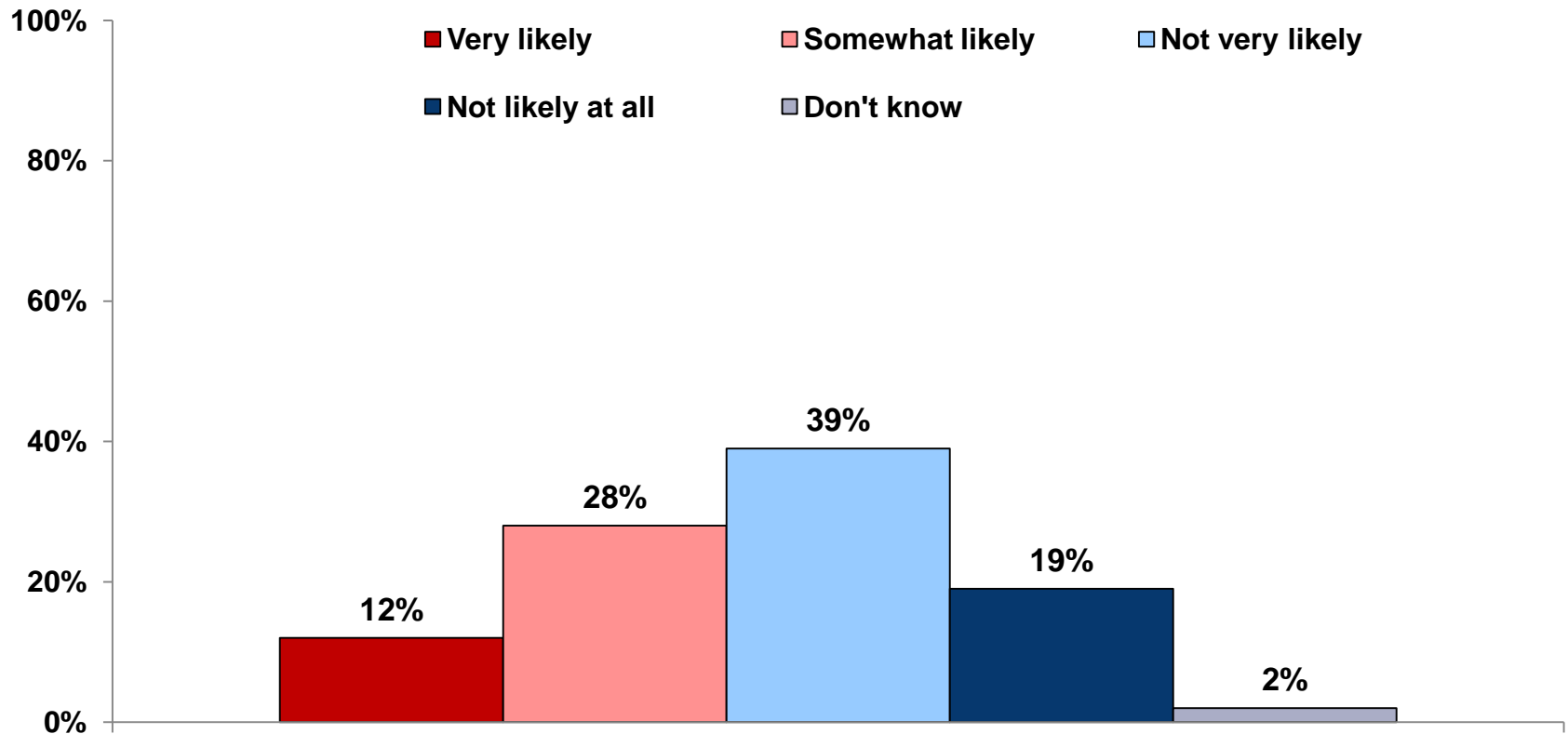
What do you think are the one or two most important issues facing New England today?

| | |
|--|-----|
| Economic recession and loss of jobs | 64% |
| Health care accessibility, quality and cost | 15 |
| High taxes and federal budget deficit | 14 |
| Prices for gasoline, heating oil, natural gas and/or electricity | 12 |
| Education | 7 |
| Global warming and other environmental issues | 6 |
| Cost of living/Inflation | 4 |
| Debt/Finances/Money (general) | 4 |
| Corruption/poor government | 3 |
| Housing market weakness | 3 |
| Social security/disability benefits | 2 |
| Immigration | 2 |
| State budget/debt/deficit | 2 |
| Government spending | 2 |
| Industry leaving/growth | 2 |
| Religious/Moral issues | 1 |
| Infrastructure/traffic | 1 |
| Wars in Iraq/Afghanistan | 1 |
| Wall Street/Banking crisis | 1 |
| Public safety/crime | 1 |
| (Other) | 3 |
| (Don't know/Refused) | 3 |

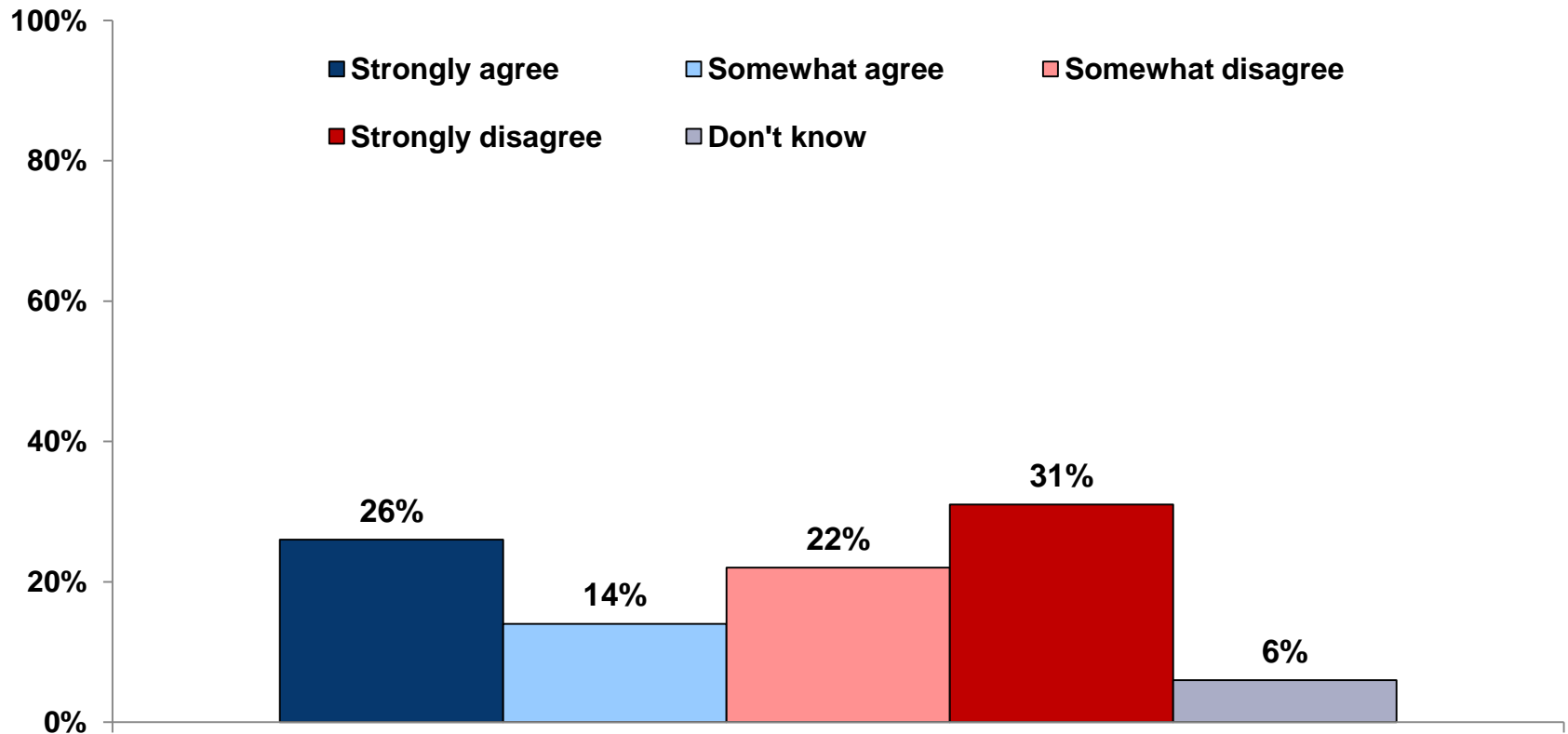
What do you think is the single most important energy-related issue facing New England today?

| | |
|---|-----|
| High prices for gasoline, heating oil, natural gas or electricity | 40% |
| Lack of renewable/alternative energy like wind and solar for electricity generation | 10 |
| Gas/Fuel | 6 |
| Dependence on (foreign) oil/energy | 6 |
| Oil/Heating oil | 6 |
| Nuclear energy (including Vermont Yankee) | 4 |
| Conserve energy/ waste of energy | 3 |
| Wind farms/mills | 3 |
| Availability of energy | 2 |
| Politicians/Energy Policy/Energy tax issues | 2 |
| Drilling | 2 |
| An electricity supply that is over 50% dependant on fossil fuels | 1 |
| Jobs/Unemployment/the economy | 1 |
| Lack of competition | 1 |
| Pollution | 1 |
| Electricity | 1 |
| Global Warming from the burning of fossil fuels | 1 |
| (Other) | 2 |
| (Don't know/Refused) | 10 |

How likely do you think it is that a catastrophic natural disaster—like the earthquake and tsunami in Japan or Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana—could happen here in New England?

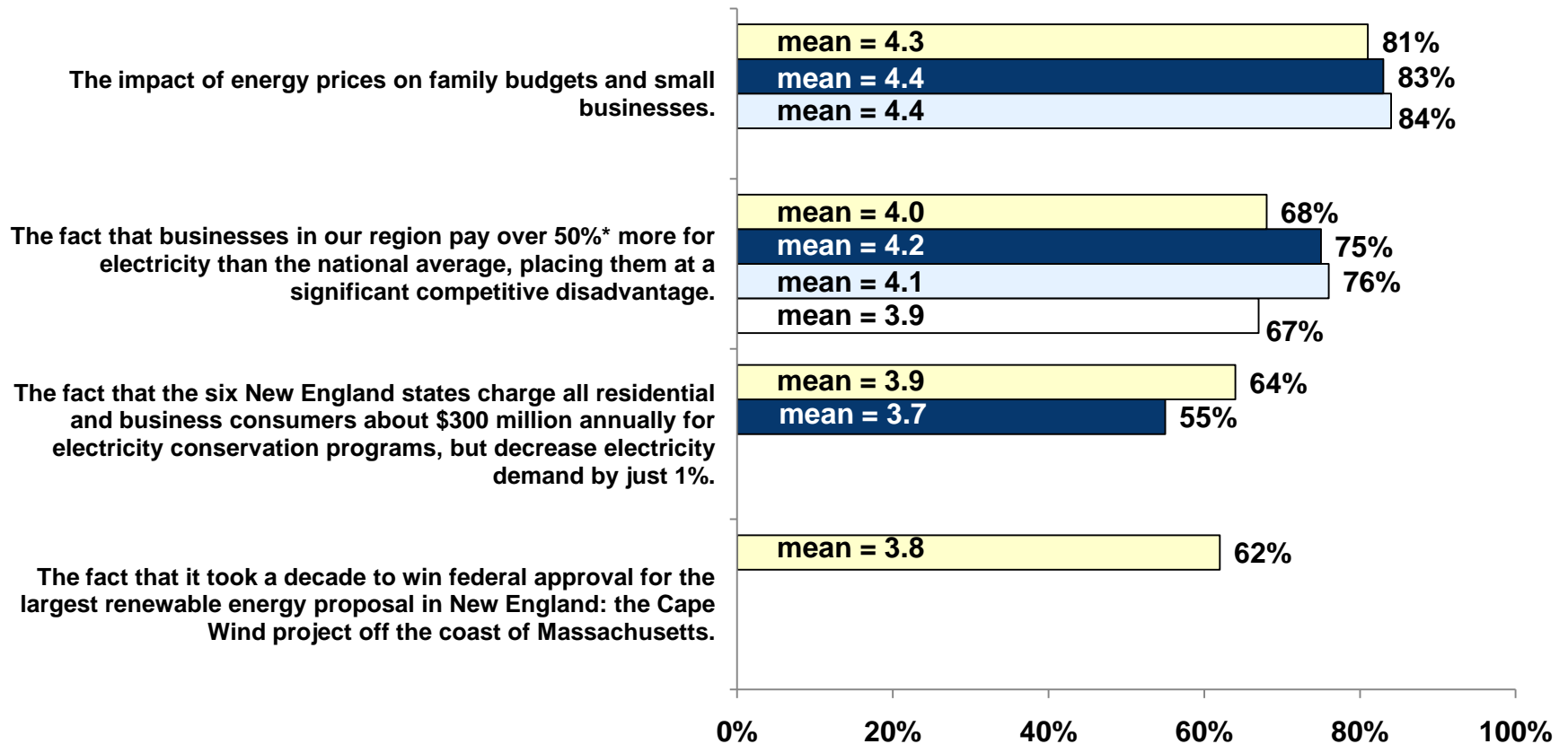


About a year ago, there was a drilling accident in the Gulf of Mexico that resulted in an explosion and oil spill from a BP (or British Petroleum) facility. The accident had significant environmental and economic impact on the Gulf region. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree that the federal government should severely limit off-shore oil drilling because of this accident in the Gulf?

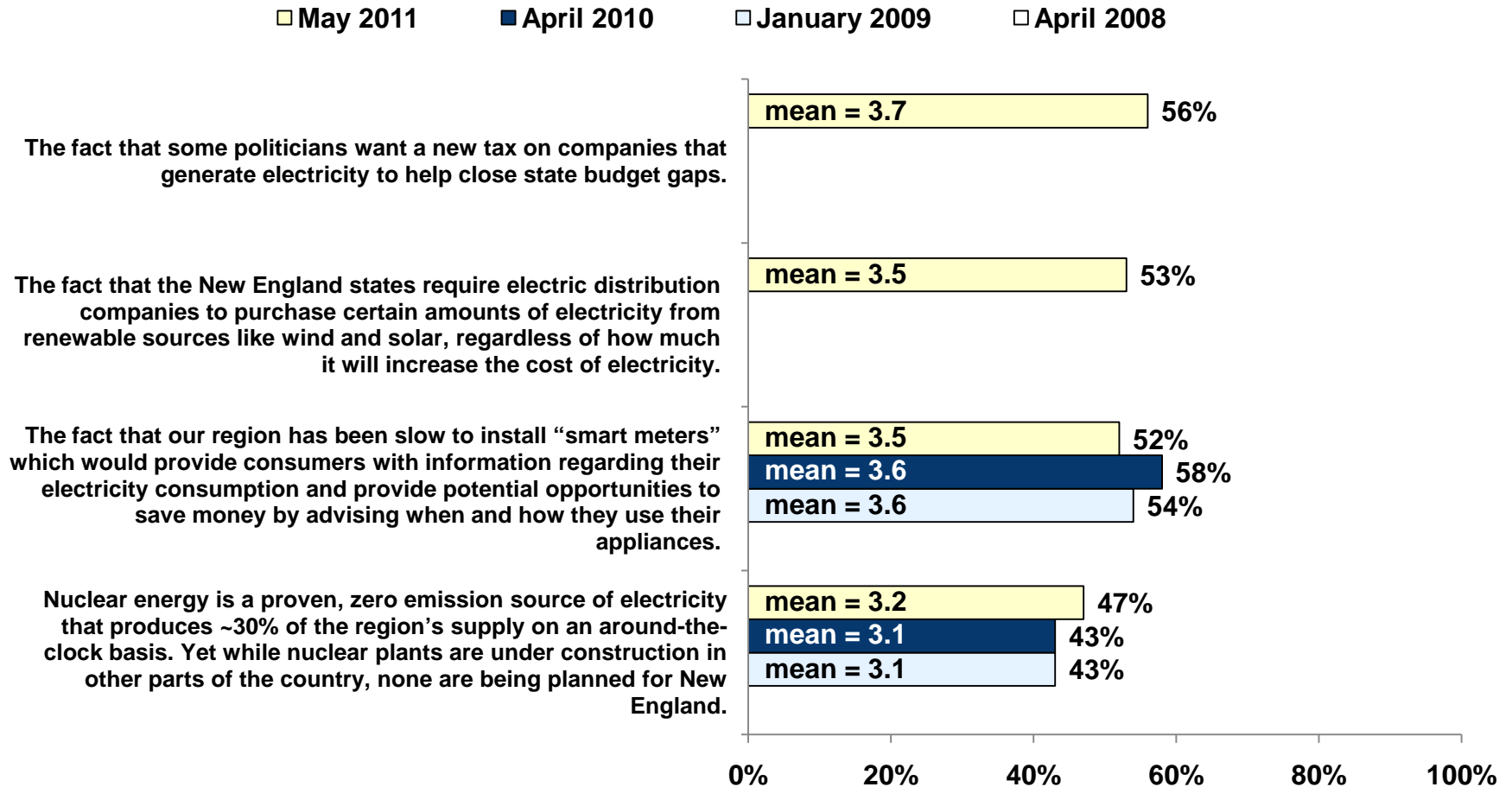


Using a scale of 1=*not concerned at all* and 5=*extremely concerned*
 Please rate your level of concern about each of the following regional
 energy-related issues
 (Percentages show ratings of 4 and 5 combined)

□ May 2011 ■ April 2010 □ January 2009 □ April 2008



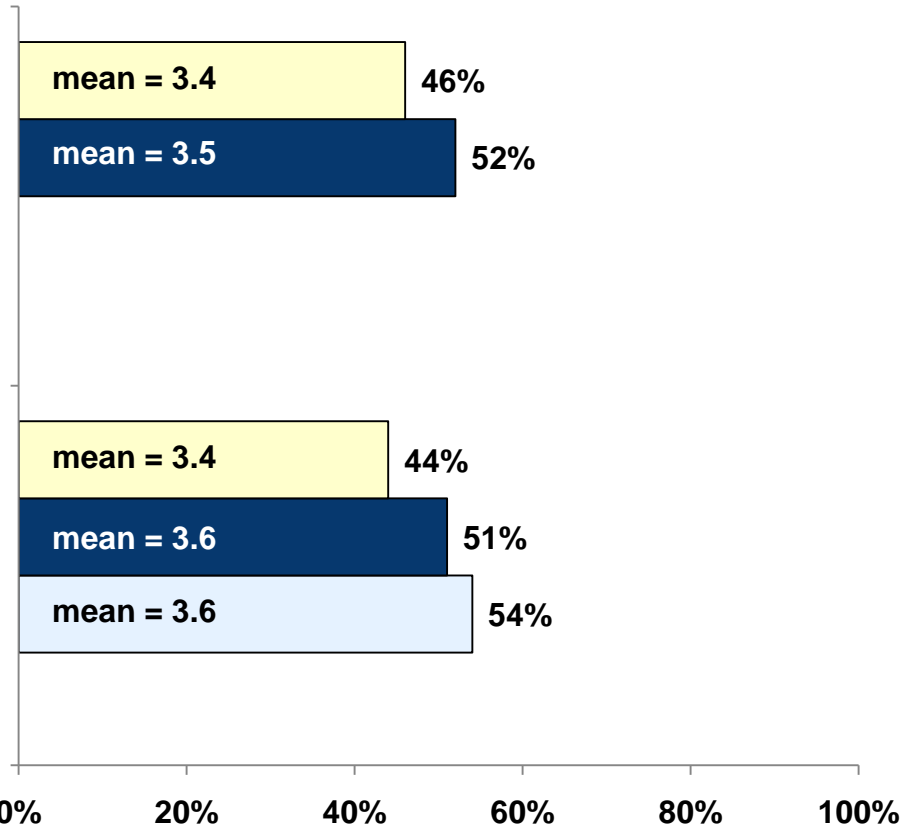
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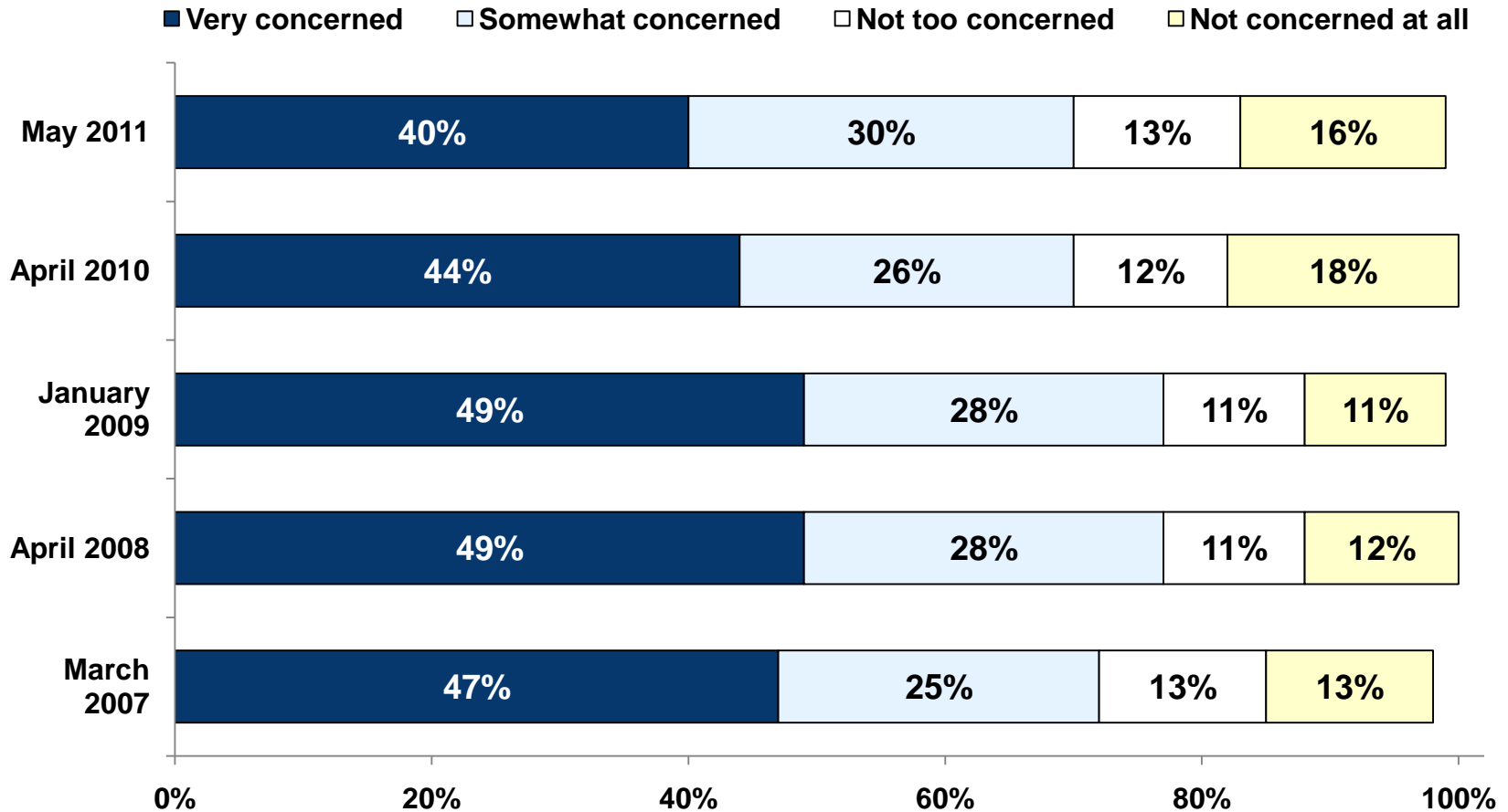
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Renewable sources of electricity like wind and solar receive government subsidies. Despite this, the electricity they produce can be at least 25% more expensive than electricity from natural gas, coal and nuclear generating facilities.



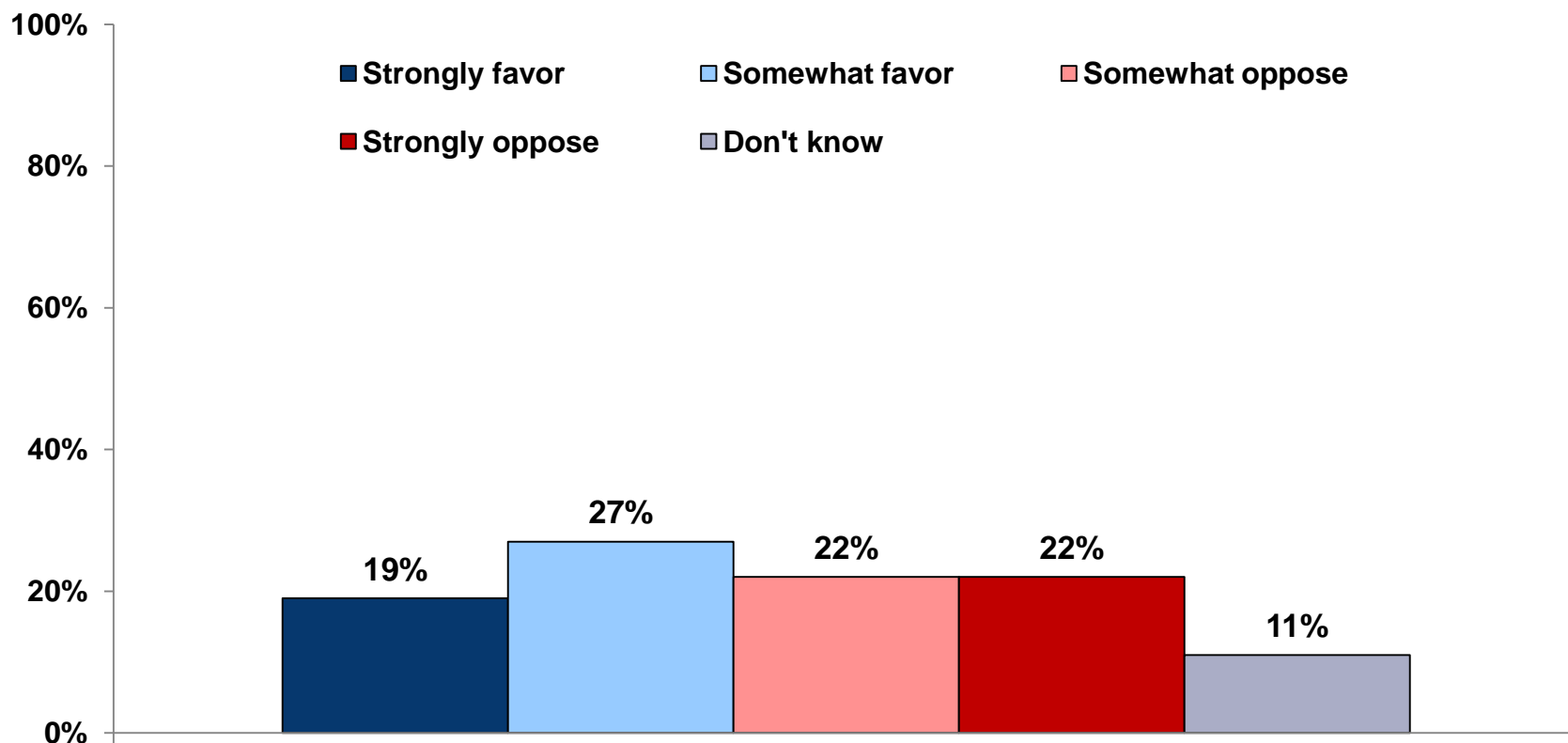
The fact that many sources of renewable energy are located in remote areas of New England and are not readily accessible to the region's transmission system that delivers electricity to urban and suburban areas.

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

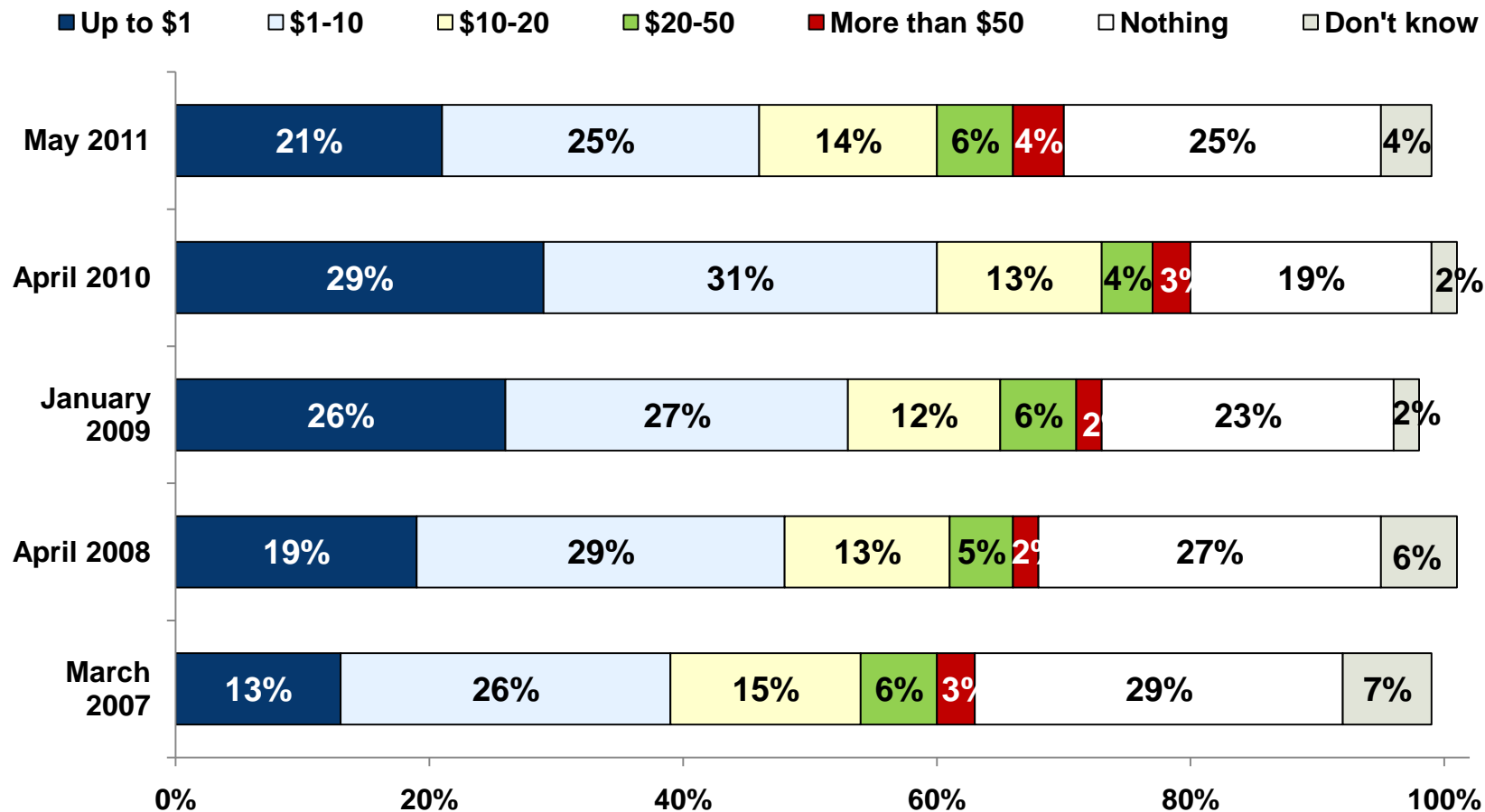


On the issue of limiting greenhouse gas emissions, the New England and Mid-Atlantic states implemented the first in the nation cap and trade program called the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. This initiative requires power plant owners to buy allowances for emitting CO2. Since the initiative was implemented over two years ago, more than \$260 million has been paid by New England's businesses and homeowners, most of which is used to fund energy efficiency programs administered by electric utilities. Supporters say the initiative cuts carbon emissions and creates jobs. Opponents say the initiative is a tax and puts the region at a cost disadvantage.

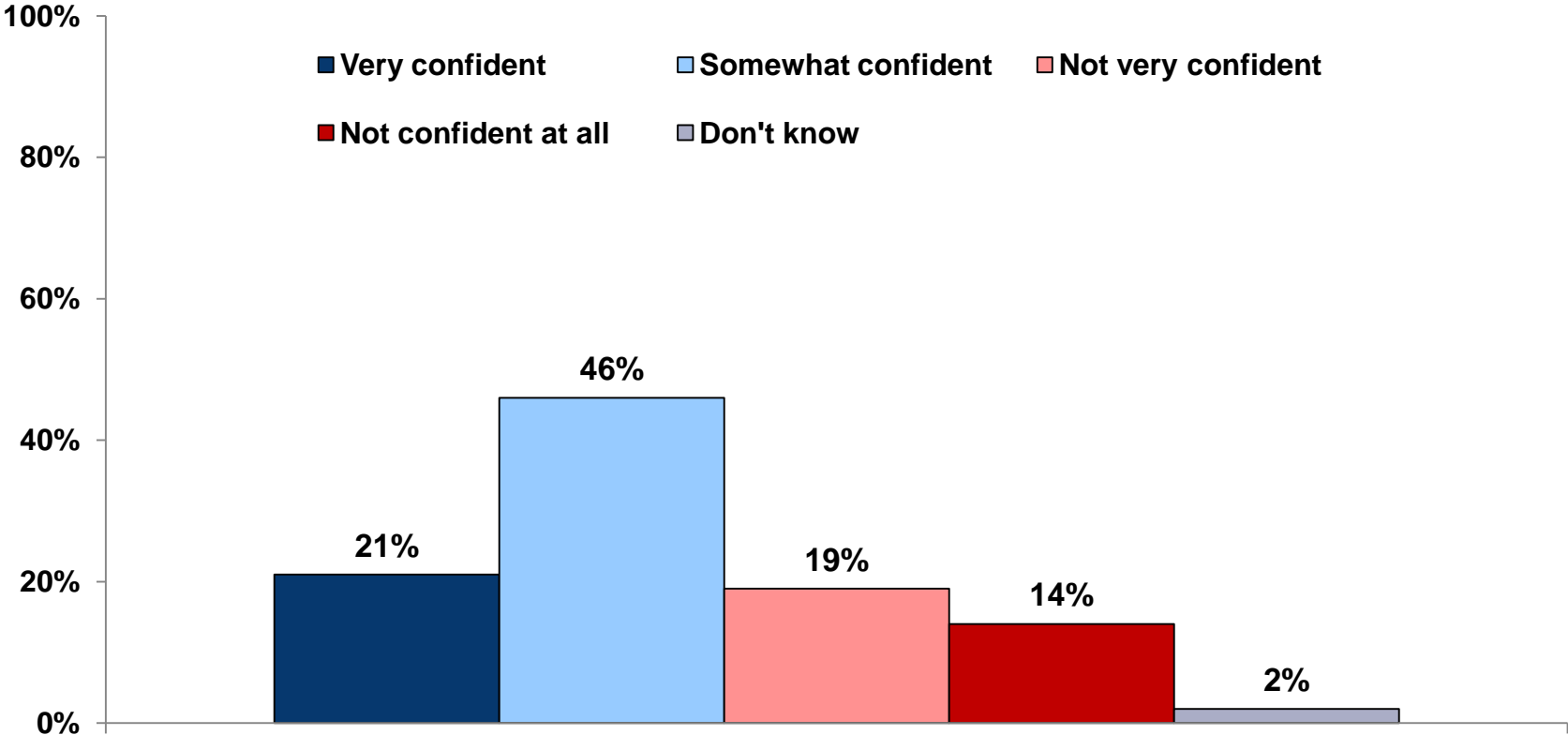
Based on this information, do you strongly favor this initiative, somewhat favor it, somewhat oppose it, or strongly oppose it?



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?

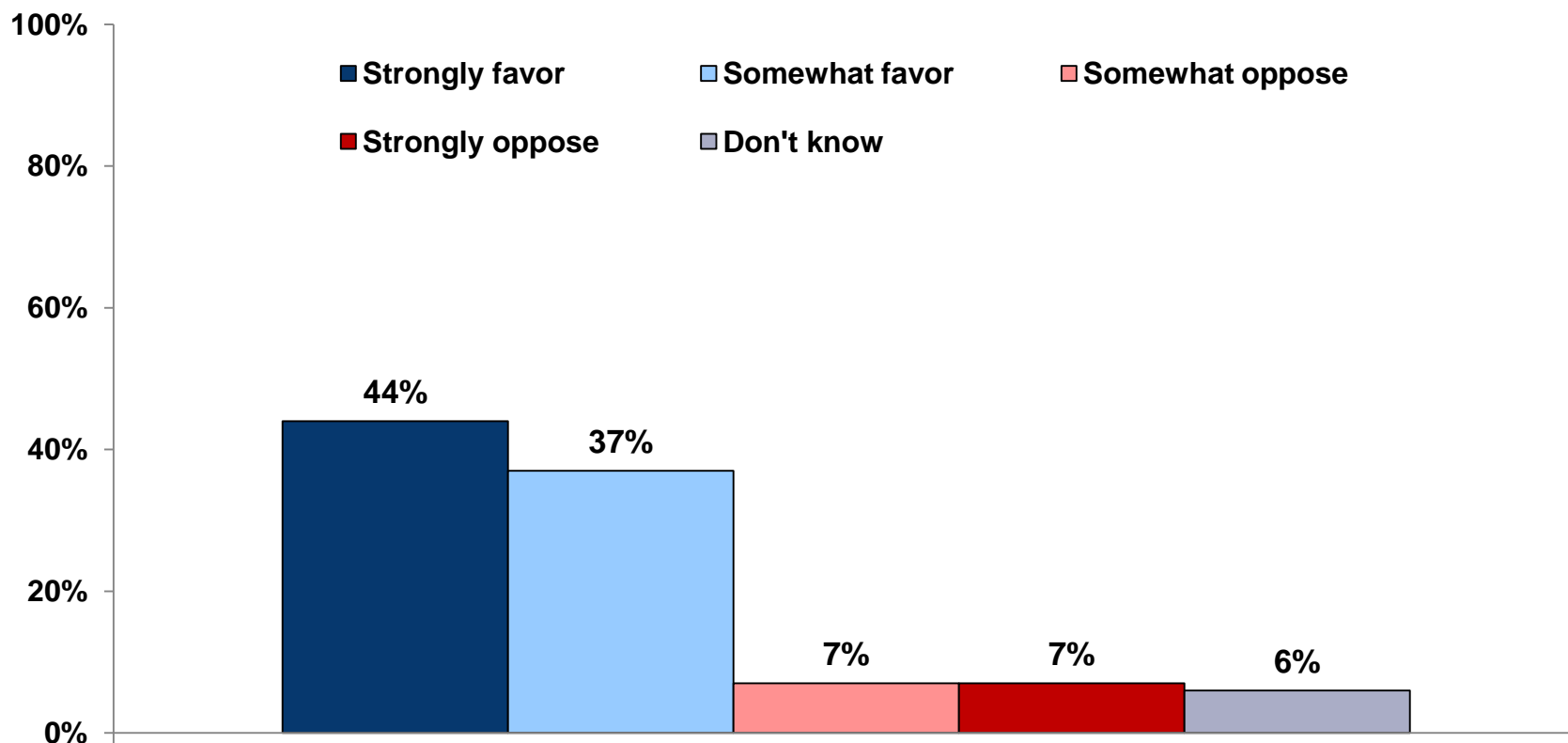


In light of the crisis in Japan, President Obama has ordered a safety review of all the nation's nuclear power plants. Previous safety studies declared U.S. plants to be safe, including their ability to withstand any number of natural disasters. How confident are you that this new safety review to be performed by independent agencies of the US government will assure that nuclear plants operating in New England are as safe and reliable as possible?



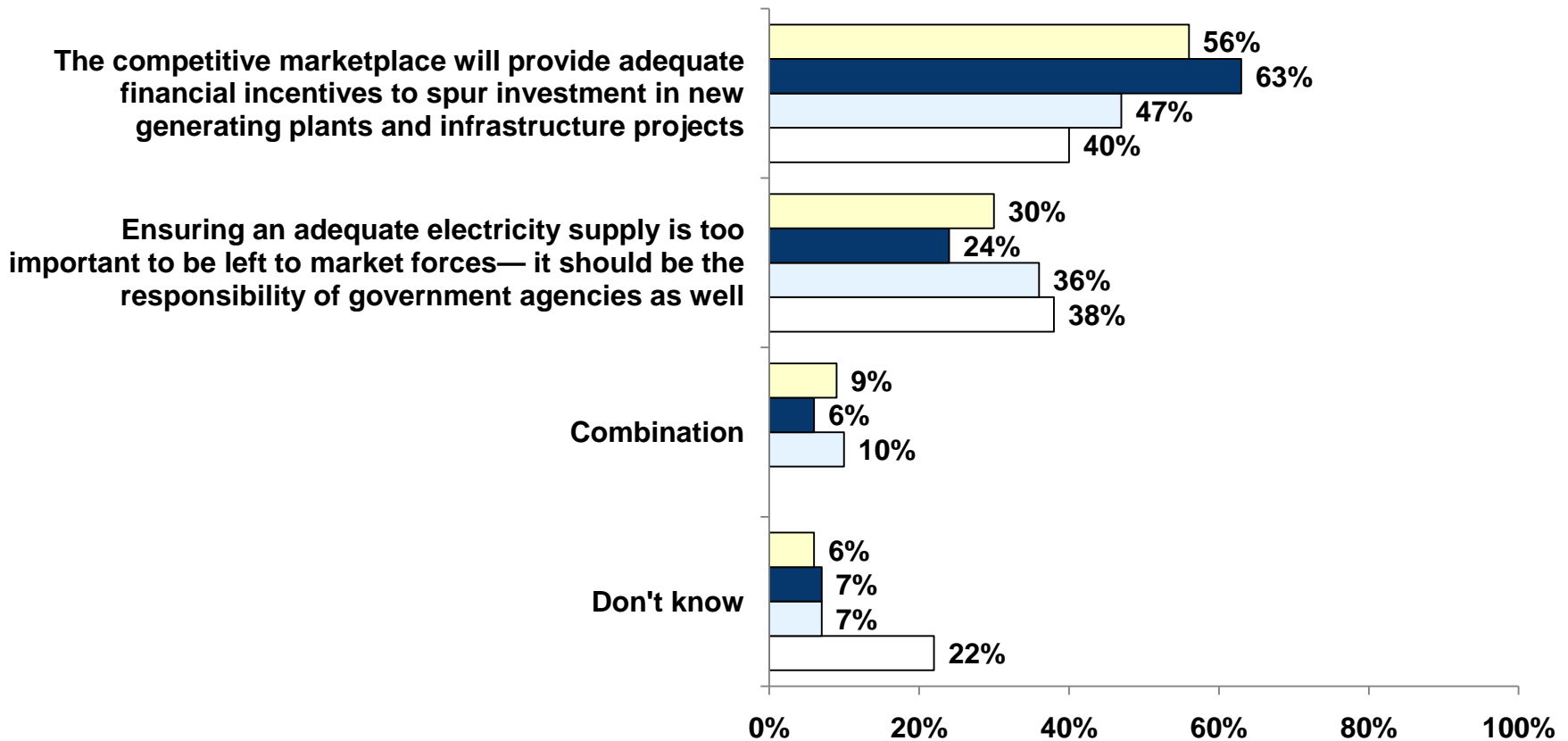
As you may know, electricity restructuring has been in place for more than ten years in many New England states. Rather than having regulated utility companies responsible for both producing and delivering power, privately-owned generating companies can now compete based on price and consumers have the choice from whom to purchase their electricity. Distribution of electricity over wires to homes and businesses is still the responsibility of regulated electric utilities. Under this system, consumers can switch electricity suppliers whenever they wish—and about 20% of New Englanders have done so.

In general, do you strongly favor this type of restructured electricity system, somewhat favor it, somewhat oppose it, or strongly oppose it?



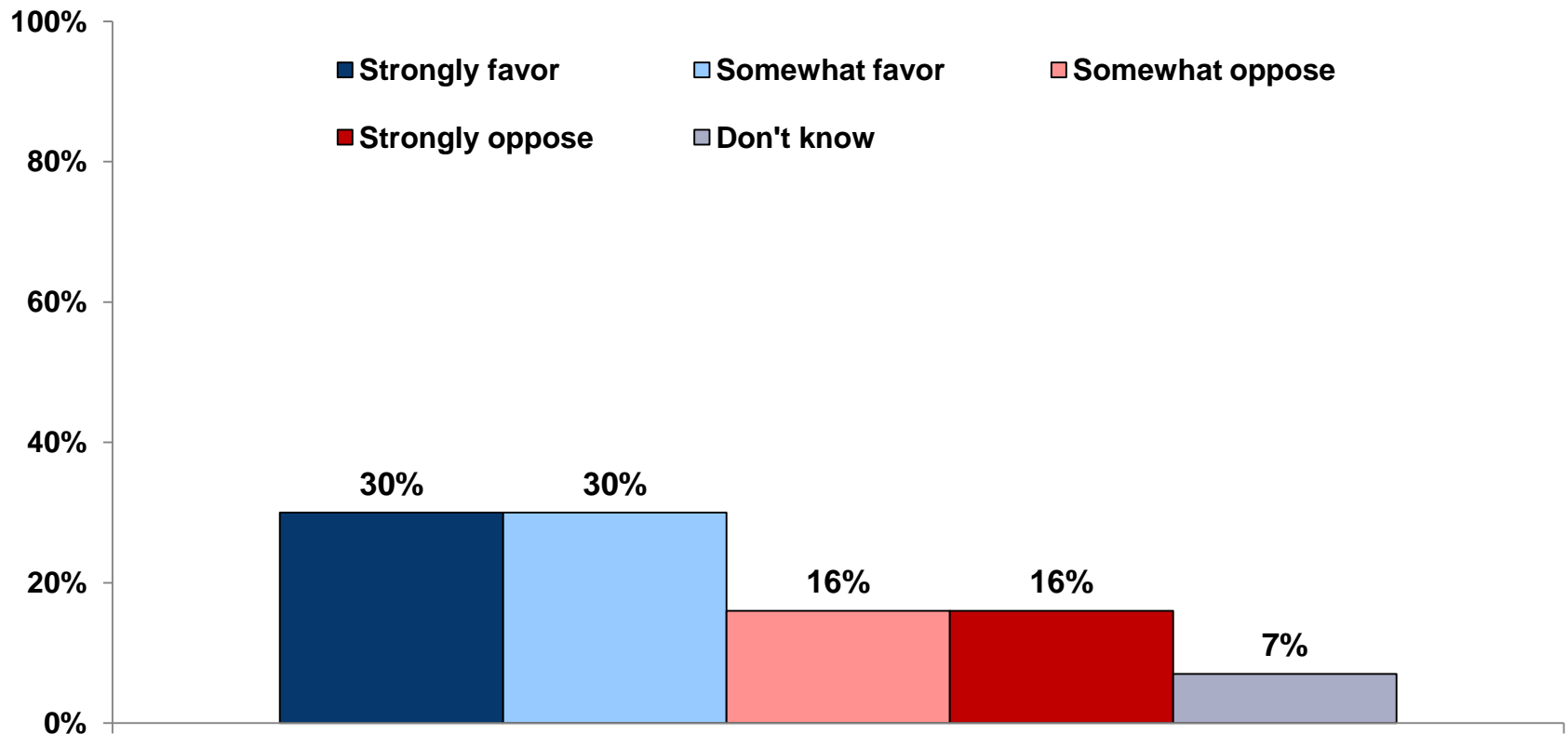
Which of these two statements about restructured electricity markets is closer to your opinion?

□ May 2011 ■ April 2010 □ January 2009 □ April 2008

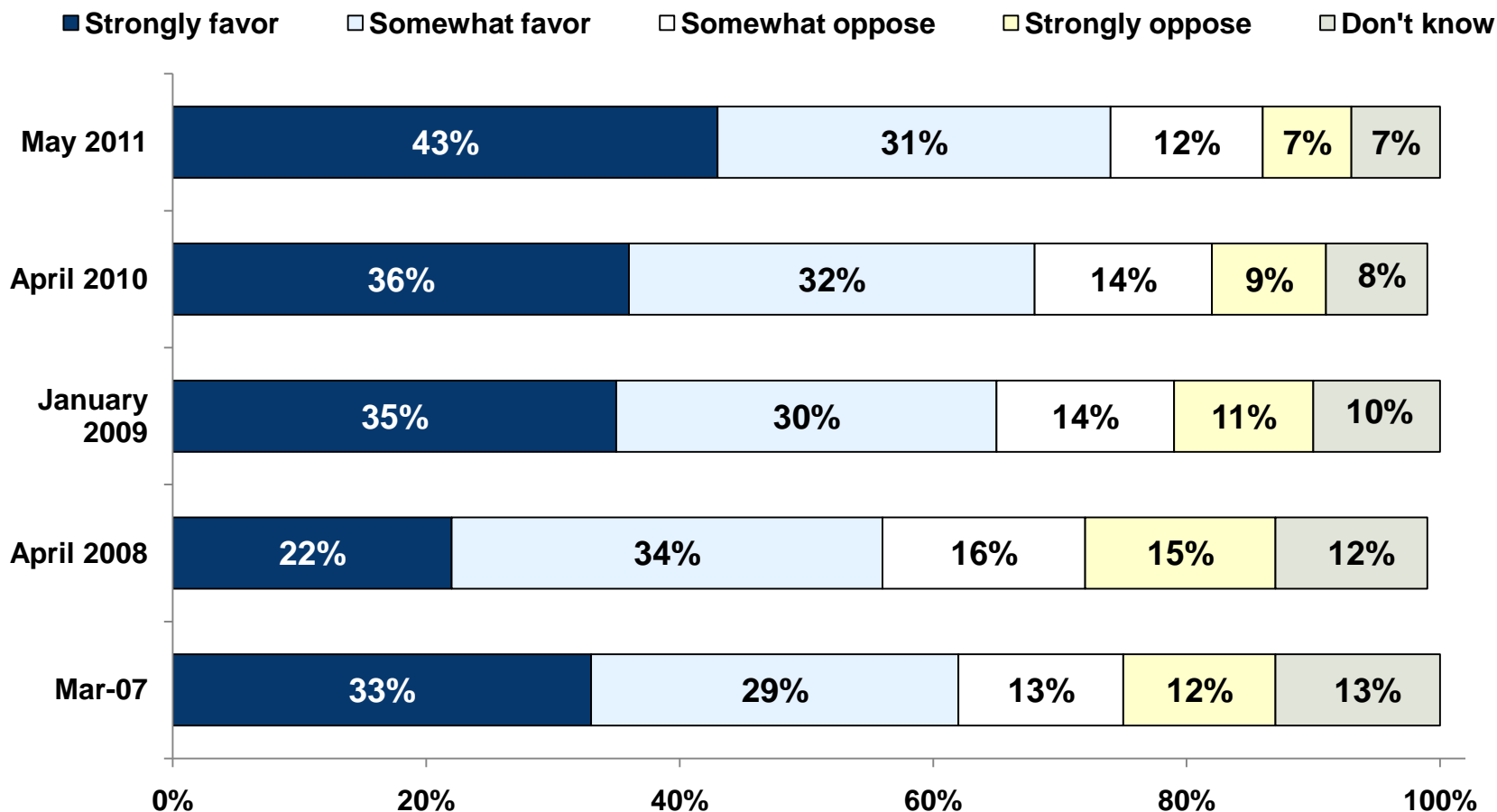


On the issue of renewing the licenses of existing nuclear energy plants, supporters point to the fact that nuclear plants are operating better than ever, must meet rigorous regulatory inspection requirements to gain renewal, and that they don't contribute to global warming. Opponents say that the technology in these facilities is outdated, these plants are prone to mechanical failure and leaks as they get older, and that we need to be even more vigilant after what has happened in Japan.

Based on this information would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose renewing licenses for existing nuclear energy plants in New England?

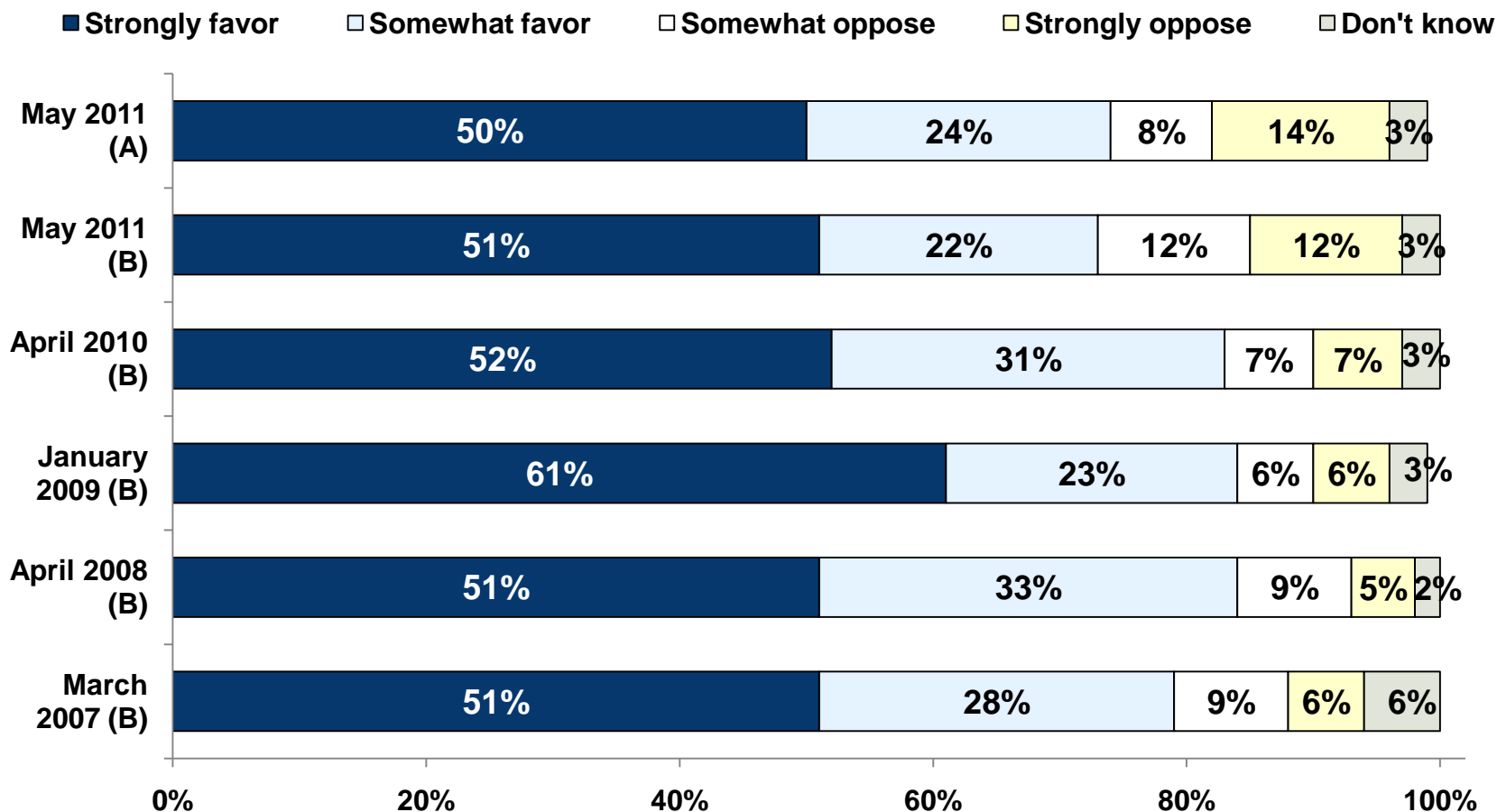


On the issue of liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals, supporters point to the fact that LNG currently supplies 40%* of the region's natural gas on a cold winter day, and that they have a proven track record of safety all over the world, and that we need to expand supplies of natural gas. Opponents point to safety concerns like vulnerability to a terrorist threat. Based on this information would you favor or oppose building new LNG terminals?



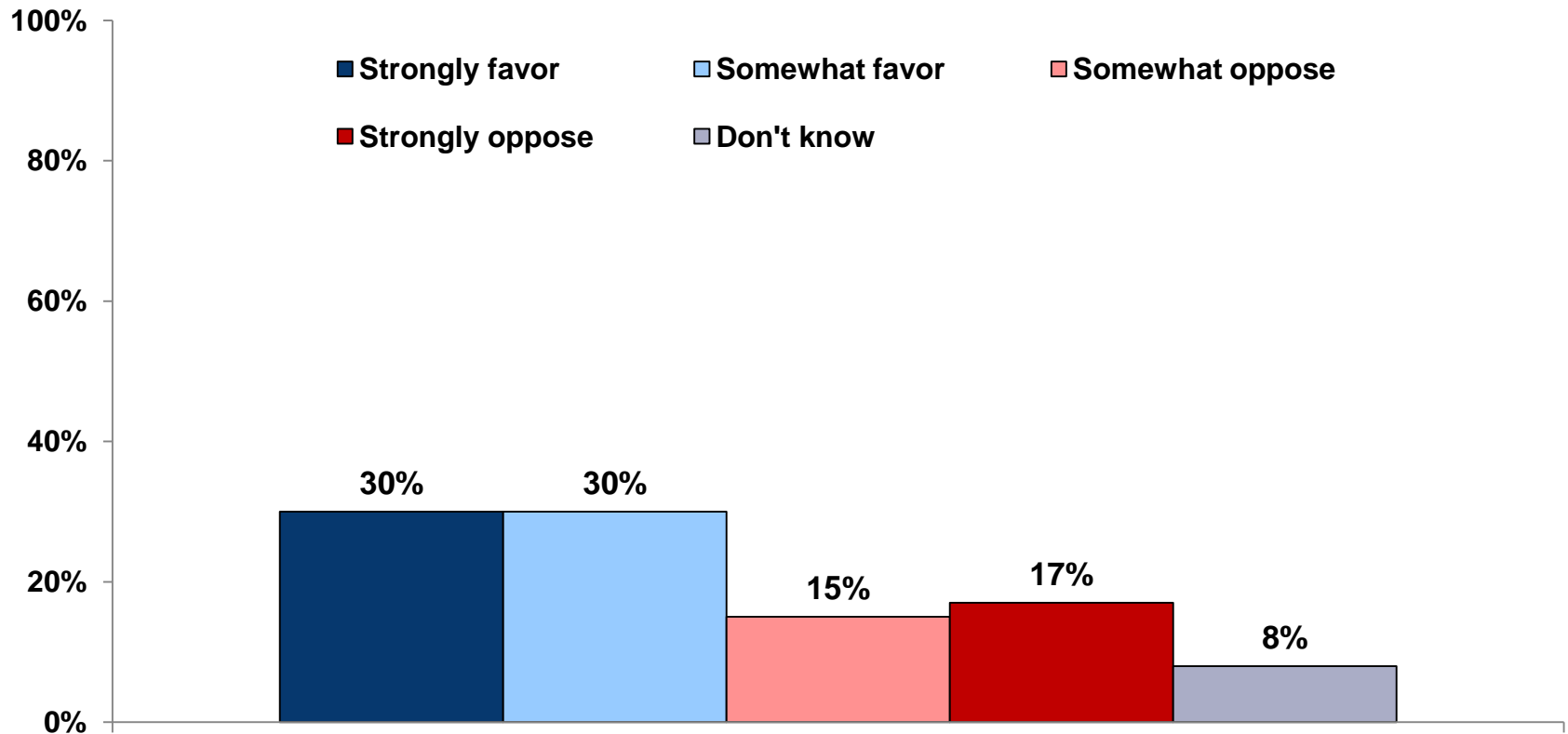
On the issue of (A: off-shore wind farms/B: large wind farms), supporters point to the fact that these facilities don't emit greenhouse gases, that the wind is free and unlimited, and that new advances in technology make this a more viable source of electricity. Opponents say (A: off-shore wind farms/B: large wind farms) are ugly, that they are expensive even with taxpayer subsidies, and they only operate about 30% of the time and therefore require fossil fuel plants as back-up.

Based on this information would you favor or oppose building (A: off-shore wind farms/B: large wind farms)?



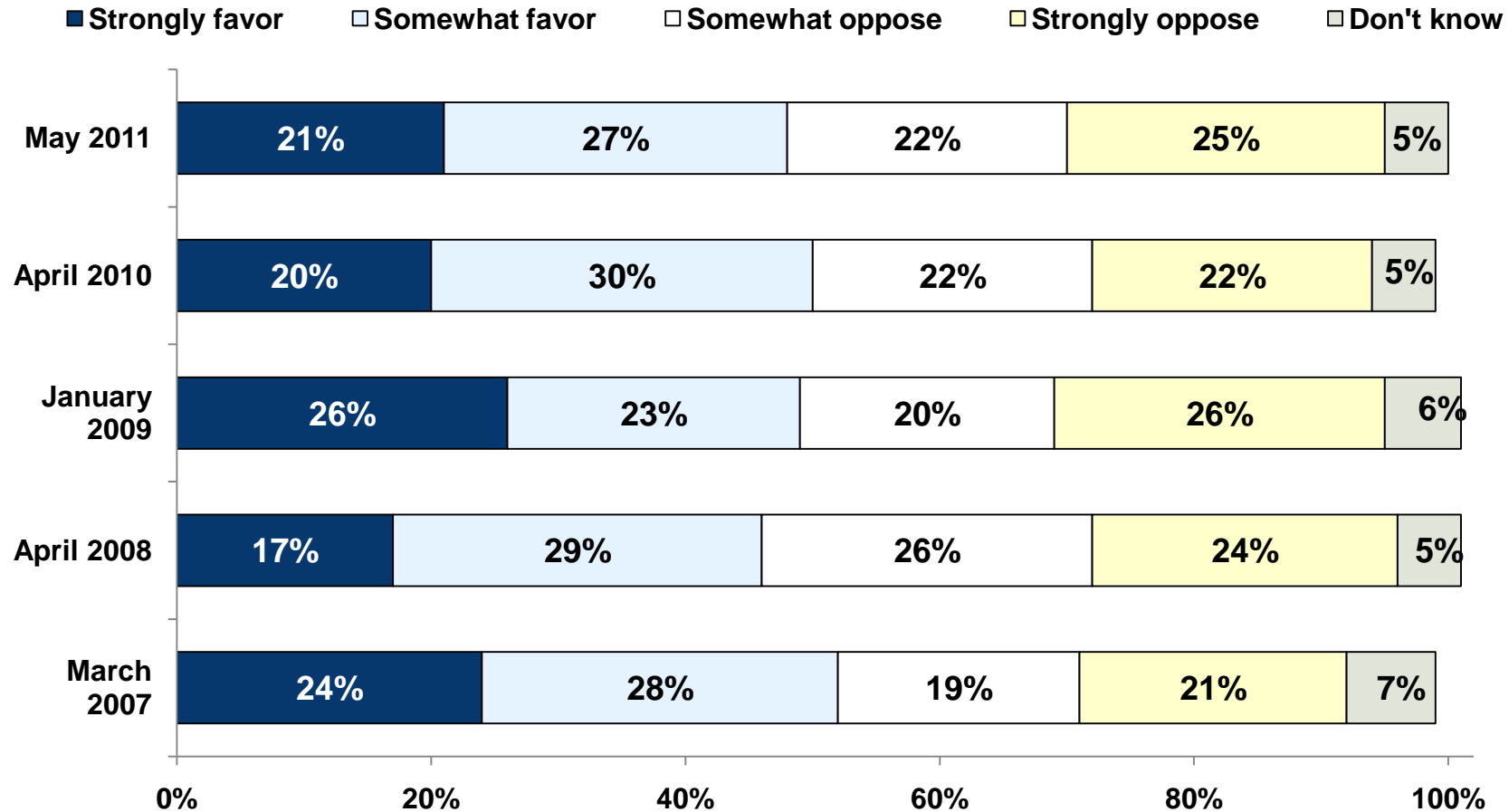
On the issue of smart meters, those opposed to them say that they are expensive, only tell homeowners what they already know about their use of electricity and are an intrusion on privacy. Supporters point out that smart meters will make the electricity grid much more efficient and provide information to homeowners and businesses that allow them to save money and help protect the environment.

Based on this information do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the installation of smart meters?



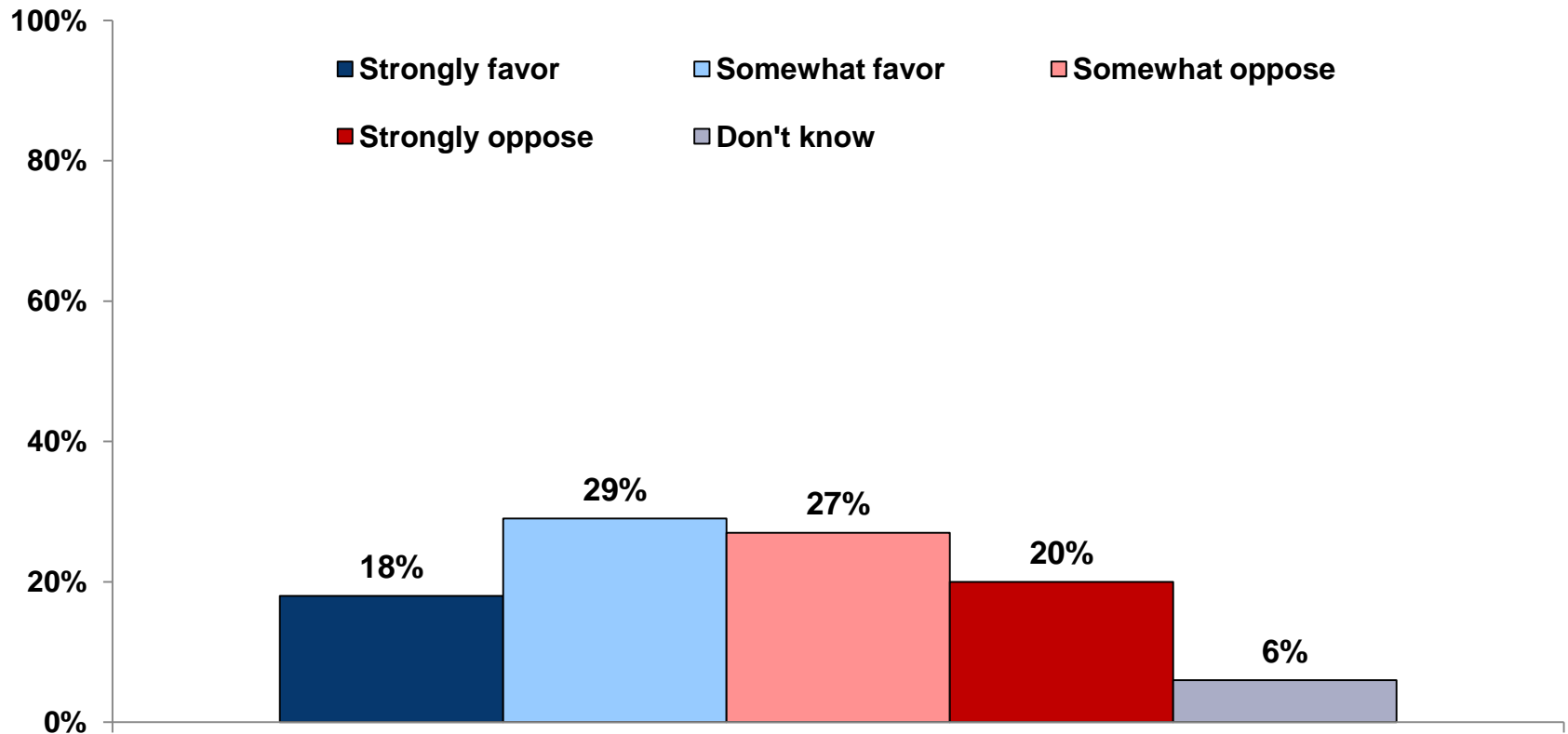
On the issue of clean coal plants, supporters point to the fact that clean coal plants reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 50% from existing coal technology, that coal is a low cost, domestic source of fuel, and that they are easy to build and operate. Opponents say clean coal plants still produce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



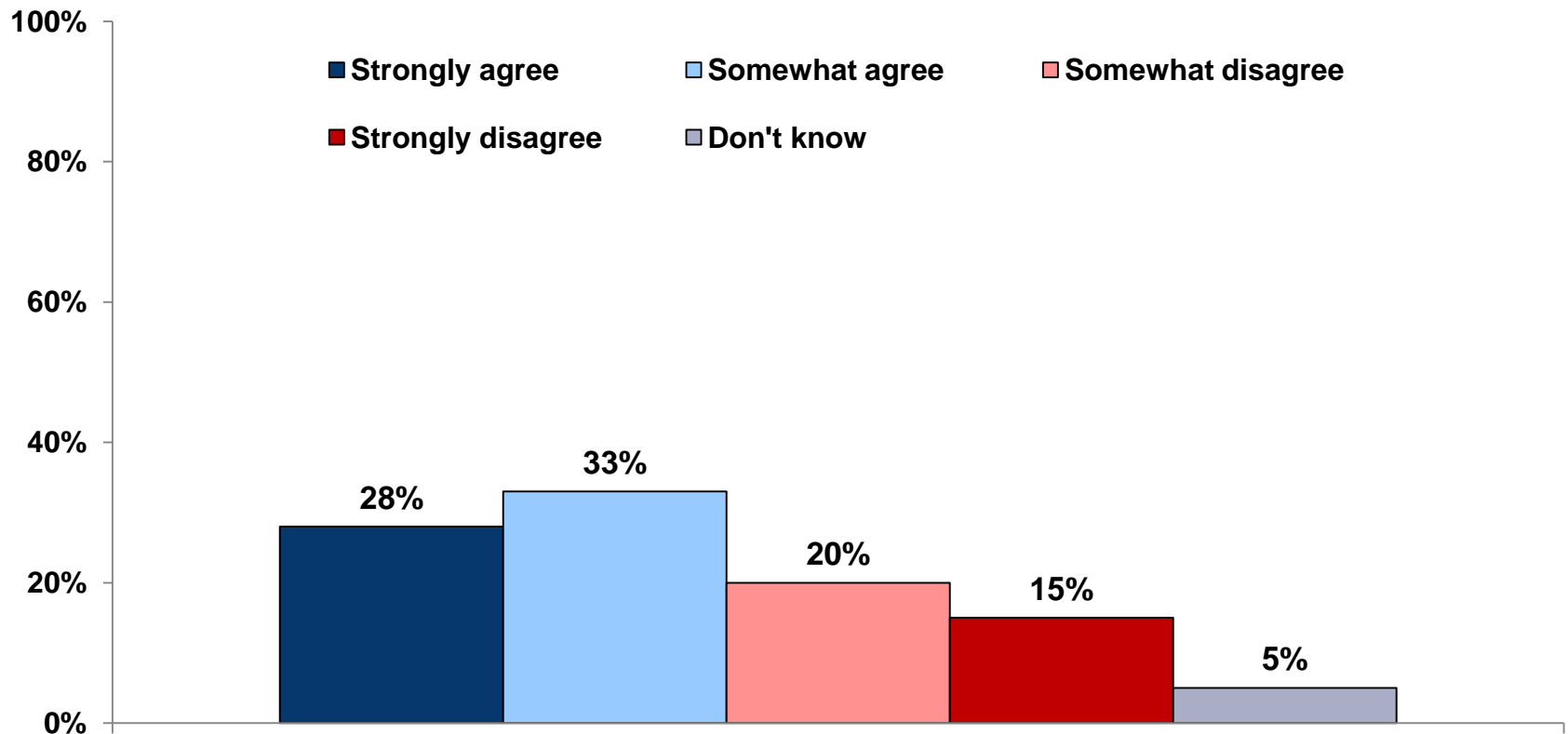
On the issue of new above-ground electricity transmission lines, supporters say new lines could bring in affordable electricity generated by hydro and wind facilities in Canada or neighboring regions. Opponents say transmission lines are ugly, require rights of way through many communities, pose health risks, and their expensive construction could be avoided if we built wind generating facilities closer to where they are needed in New England.

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



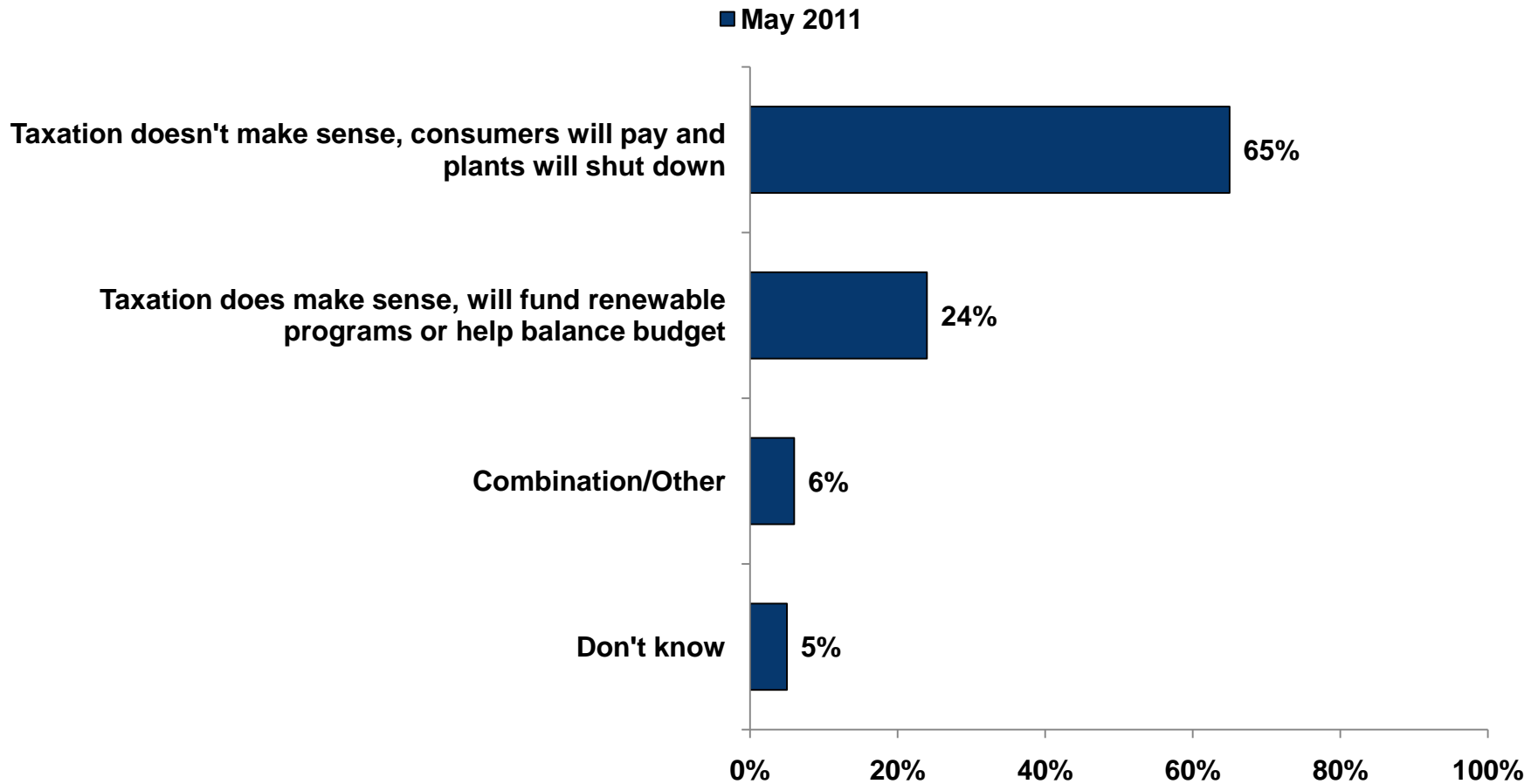
Previously, the costs associated with building a new transmission line to improve electricity reliability were spread across all electricity consumers in a region—with everyone paying about the same amount. Some people propose that these costs should be higher for those in areas who actually use the electricity and less for those who don't.

Do you strongly agree with this view, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree?



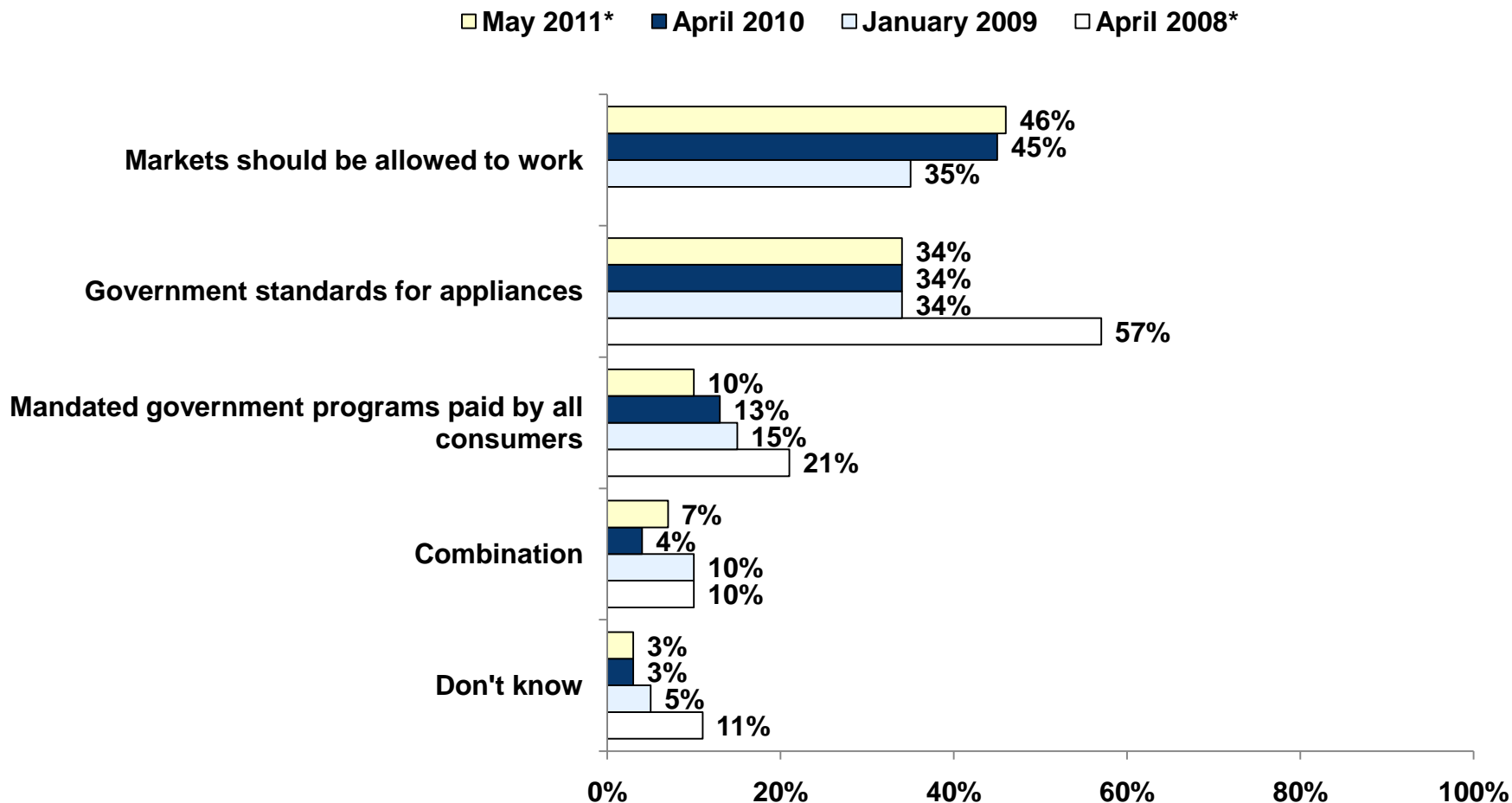
There have been proposals in some New England states to impose a new tax totaling up to hundreds of millions of dollars each year on electricity generating companies. Some people say that this taxation makes sense, since the revenue will be used to fund renewable and energy efficiency programs or help balance the state budget. Others say that this taxation doesn't make any sense at all because the companies will just find a way pass the extra costs onto consumers or will shut down needed electricity plants.

Which of these positions is closer to your own?



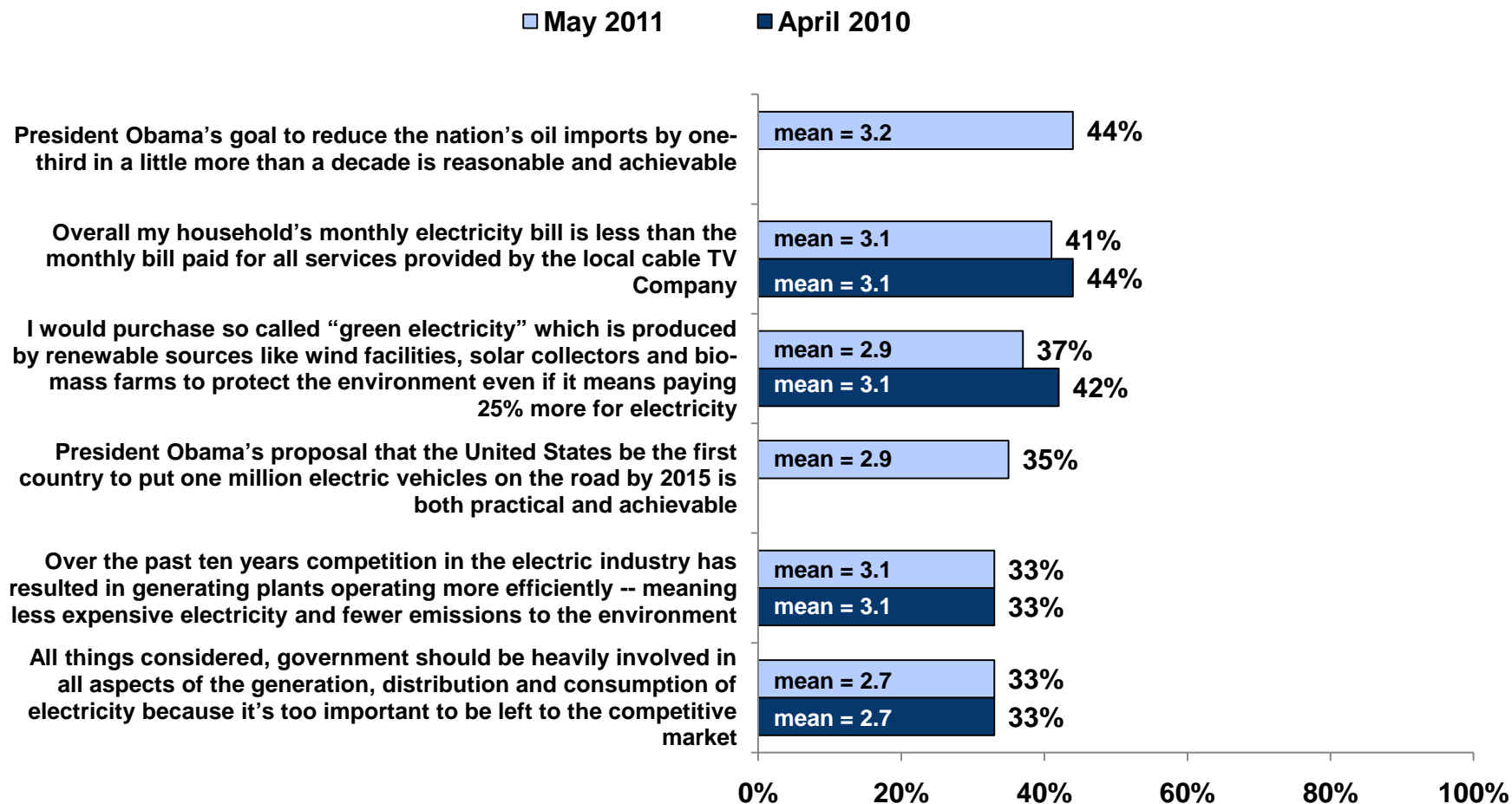
On the issue of decreasing the amount of electricity that we use, some people argue that mandated government programs paid for by consumers like you are needed to encourage efficiency. Other people argue that government appliance standards --- like for washing machines --- can have the same effect and 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?



Using a scale of 1=*Strongly disagree* and 5=*Strongly agree* Please rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements

(Percentages show ratings of 4 and 5 combined)



Demographics

| | | | |
|---|-----|------------------------------|-----|
| Income: \$0-19,999 | 9% | Age: 18-25 | 4% |
| \$20-34,999 | 10 | 26-35 | 13 |
| \$35-49,999 | 11 | 36-45 | 23 |
| \$50-74,999 | 14 | 46-55 | 22 |
| \$75-99,999 | 13 | 56-64 | 16 |
| \$100-150,000 | 14 | 65+ | 22 |
| Over \$150,000 | 12 | | |
| Refused | 17 | HS education or less | 24% |
| | | Some coll./tech./voc. | 23 |
| Female | 53% | Graduated college | 29 |
| Male | 47 | Graduate/Professional school | 24 |
| Single-family residence | 80% | Democrat | 35% |
| Multi-family residence | 17 | Republican | 24 |
| | | Independent | 31 |
| 5 yrs or less in single-family residence | 22% | Other/Don't know/Refused | 10 |
| 5-10 yrs in single-family residence | 19 | | |
| More than 10 yrs in single-family residence | 58 | | |