

1724 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 234-5570

Interviews: 803 likely 2016 voters,
Dates: January 16-19, 2015

FINAL

Study #11494
CAP Coal Subsidies Survey
January 2015

46 Male
54 Female
[109]

Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.

1a. Are you currently registered to vote?

Yes, registered.....	100	CONTINUE	[138]
No, not registered	-	TERMINATE	
Not sure	-		

1b. How would you describe your overall point of view in terms of the political parties? Would you say you are mostly Democratic, leaning Democratic, completely independent, leaning Republican, or mostly Republican?

Mostly Democratic	27	[139]
Leaning Democratic.....	12	
Completely independent.....	21	
Leaning Republican.....	10	
Mostly Republican	25	
Not sure	5	
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>		
Total Democratic	39	
Total Republican	35	

1c. For statistical purposes only, would you please tell me how old you are? (IF "REFUSED," ASK:) Well, would you tell me which age group you belong to?

18-24	8	[140/141]
25-29	6	
30-34	6	
35-39	8	
40-44	7	
45-49	9	
50-54	11	
55-59	10	
60-64	9	
65-69	9	
70-74	8	
75 and over.....	8	
Refused	1	

1d. And for statistical purposes only, are you from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background?

Yes, Hispanic.....	9	[142]
No, not Hispanic	91	
Not sure/refused	-	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY "NO, NOT HISPANIC" OR "NOT SURE" IN Q.1d.)

1e. To ensure that we have a representative sample, what is your race--white, African American or black, Asian, or something else?

White	81	[143]
African American/black	12	
Asian	1	
Other	4	
Hispanic (VOL)	-	
Not sure/refused	2	

For the rest of this survey, we're going to be talking about coal mining on national public lands. When I say public lands, I mean lands and the resources under them that are owned by taxpayers and managed by federal agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

2. The federal government leases public lands mainly in Wyoming and Montana to companies who mine for coal. Generally speaking, when you hear that the federal government leases national public lands to coal companies for mining, do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable reaction to this?

Very favorable	12	[144]
Somewhat favorable.....	30	
Somewhat unfavorable	24	
Very unfavorable	17	
Not sure	17	
Total Favorable	42	
Total Unfavorable	41	

3. When a company mines coal from national public lands, they are required to pay fees, called royalties, to the government based on the price of the coal they mine. When you hear that coal companies have to pay royalties or fees for the coal they mine and sell from public lands, do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable reaction to this?

Very favorable	33	[145]
Somewhat favorable.....	36	
Somewhat unfavorable	12	
Very unfavorable	9	
Not sure	10	
Total Favorable	69	
Total Unfavorable	21	

4. Do you think that the royalties and fees coal companies pay to U.S. taxpayers should be calculated based on the price of the coal at the mine when it is first sold to a middleman or based on the market price of the coal when it is sold to a power plant? If you do not have an opinion about this, just say so.

Price at the first sale	20	[146]
True market price	40	
Not sure	40	

5. Recent investigations have found that coal companies are selling coal to subsidiary companies they have created, which allows them to set prices for themselves and therefore pay lower royalties or fees to U.S. taxpayers. These subsidiary companies then re-sell the coal at a much higher price to power plants, or export the coal to China and other foreign markets. When you hear that coal companies can pay lower royalties or fees to U.S. taxpayers by first selling the coal to their own subsidiary companies, do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable reaction?

Very favorable	4	[147]
Somewhat favorable	8	
Somewhat unfavorable	21	
Very unfavorable	59	
Not sure	8	
Total Favorable	12	
Total Unfavorable	70	

6ab. There is a proposal to require coal companies to pay royalties or fees for coal mined on public lands based on the true market price at which coal is sold to power plants, rather than the lower price at which coal is sold to middlemen or their own subsidiary companies. Would you favor or oppose charging coal companies royalties based on the true market price of the coal instead of the price at which it is first sold to a middleman or subsidiary company? (IF "FAVOR" OR "OPPOSE," ASK:) And do you feel that way strongly or just somewhat?

Favor	69	[148/149]
Strongly	43	
Just somewhat.....	26	
Oppose	16	
Just somewhat.....	8	
Strongly	8	
Not sure	15	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO CHOOSE "FAVOR" OR "OPPOSE" IN Q.6a.)

7. Why do you feel that way?

Why do you (FAVOR/OPPOSE) a proposal to charge coal companies royalties or fees based on the market price of the coal? **[150/156]**

Net Reasons To Favor	66%	Net Reasons To Oppose	20%
Seems fair, the fair thing to do, makes more sense	15	Concerns prices will get higher, will affect us, the consumers	4
They should pay their fair share, should pay market price	14	Oppose/against any government interference, too many rules/regulation	3
Just a ploy for the rich to get richer, manipulating the system	8	Coal mines/companies having a hard time as it is	2
They make enough money, what they are doing is not right	7	People have the right to do what they want with their own businesses	2
Public lands belong to the public, to us, they don't own the land	7	Believe in free market, price determined by supply and demand	2
		All other comments	6
		Don't know; no response	15%

(Q.8 AND Q.9 ARE ROTATED BY FORM.)

8. Now I'm going to read you some reasons some people SUPPORT a proposal to charge coal companies royalties or fees for coal mined on public lands based on the true market price of the coal. Please rate each one on a zero-to-ten scale for how strong a reason it is to SUPPORT this proposal, where a zero means that it's not a strong reason at all to support the proposal, and a ten means that it's a very strong reason to support the proposal. You may use any number between zero and ten.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST MEAN SCORE

	<i>Mean</i>	Strong Reason To Support		Not A Strong Reason To Support		Cannot Rate	
		<u>8-10</u>	<u>6-7</u>	<u>4-5</u>	<u>0-3</u>		
By taking advantage of this gaping loophole, major coal companies are costing U.S. taxpayers and state governments more than one billion dollars a year in lost royalty payments for money that is owed them from coal mined on taxpayer-owned public lands. That is lost revenue that state governments could be using for local schools, roads, and other needs.....	6.6	51	13	14	20	2	[159/160]
Coal companies are cheating taxpayers by selling coal to their own shell companies so they can pay royalties or fees based on artificially low prices. In fact, more than forty percent of all coal in Wyoming is being sold to coal companies' shell companies to avoid paying their fair share to U.S. taxpayers	6.3	49	11	15	23	2	[157/158]
By gaming the system and paying such low royalties, coal companies that mine on federal lands in places like Wyoming are receiving an unfair advantage over coal producers that mine on private lands in other parts of the country. This is distorting U.S. coal markets and contributing to job losses in areas like West Virginia, Ohio, and other Appalachian states.....	6.2	42	16	18	20	4	[161/162]
Coal companies are working to export more and more of the coal that is mined on American public lands to China and other foreign markets. American taxpayers are getting shortchanged while Chinese power plants are getting bargain-basement prices on coal....	6.0	44	12	15	26	3	[163/164]

9. Now I'm going to read you some reasons some people OPPOSE a proposal to charge coal companies royalties for coal mined on national public lands based on the market price of the coal. Please rate each one on a zero-to-ten scale for how strong a reason it is to oppose this proposal where a zero means that it's not a strong reason at all to oppose and a ten means that it's a very strong reason to oppose. You may use any number between zero and ten.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST MEAN SCORE

	<i>Mean</i>	Strong Reason To Oppose		Not A Strong Reason To Oppose		Cannot Rate	
		<u>8-10</u>	<u>6-7</u>	<u>4-5</u>	<u>0-3</u>		
Coal mined from national public lands provides the federal government and taxpayers with very low cost electricity. Charging coal companies more in royalties would increase the cost of coal which would increase the electricity rates Americans have to pay.....	5.3	28	17	22	30	3	[167/168]
Coal mining jobs are among the best jobs in the states of Wyoming and Montana. This proposal would impose excessive tax rates on coal companies and put these valuable jobs at risk.....	5.3	28	15	27	28	2	[169/170]
Between local, state, and federal taxes, coal mined from national public lands is already among the most heavily-taxed coal that is produced. It is the second-largest source of tax revenue in Wyoming....	5.3	24	17	29	25	5	[165/166]
This proposal is being pushed by anti-coal environmentalists and is part of the Obama administration's war on coal that includes burdensome regulations meant to bankrupt the coal industry	4.8	27	11	21	37	4	[171/172]

- 10ab. Now that you've heard a little more about the issue, how do you feel about a proposal to require coal companies to pay royalties or fees for coal mined on national public lands based on the true market price at which coal is sold to power plants, rather than the lower price at which coal is sold to middlemen or subsidiary companies? Do you favor or oppose charging coal companies royalties based on the true market price of the coal instead of the price at which it is first sold to a middleman or subsidiary company? (IF "FAVOR" OR "OPPOSE," ASK:) And do you feel that way strongly or just somewhat?

Favor	73	[173/174]
Strongly.....	47	
Just somewhat.....	26	
Oppose	16	
Just somewhat.....	7	
Strongly.....	9	
Not sure.....	11	

Q.6ab		
Favor	69	[148/149]
Strongly.....	43	
Just somewhat.....	26	
Oppose	16	
Just somewhat.....	8	
Strongly.....	8	
Not sure.....	15	

11. On a related issue, the federal government provides certain subsidies to the companies that mine coal on national public lands. When you hear that the federal government provides subsidies to coal companies to mine on these taxpayer-owned national public lands, do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable reaction?

Very favorable	6	[175]
Somewhat favorable	19	
Somewhat unfavorable	32	
Very unfavorable	32	
Not sure	11	
Total Favorable	25	
Total Unfavorable	64	

12ab. There is a proposal to eliminate all taxpayer-funded subsidies to companies that mine coal on national public lands. Do you favor ending subsidies or oppose ending subsidies to coal companies that mine coal on public lands? (IF "FAVOR" OR "OPPOSE," ASK:) And do you feel that way strongly or just somewhat?

Favor Ending Subsidies	53	[176/177]
Strongly.....	30	
Just somewhat.....	23	
Oppose Ending Subsidies	29	
Just somewhat.....	15	
Strongly.....	14	
Not sure.....	18	

13. Now I'm going to read a few other policy ideas that people have proposed for reforming the federal coal leasing program. Please tell me how much you support each proposal using a zero-to-ten scale on which a zero means you do not support the proposal at all and a ten means that you strongly support the proposal. You may use any number between zero and ten.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST MEAN SCORE

	<i>Mean</i>	Strongly Support		Do Not Support At All		Cannot	
		<u>8-10</u>	<u>6-7</u>	<u>4-5</u>	<u>0-3</u>	Rate	
Require coal companies to pay a fee to compensate for the environmental damage and water and air pollution that results from strip mining and burning coal.....	7.6	64	11	11	13	1	[210/211]
Require that coal mined on taxpayer-owned lands be used in the United States, rather than shipped to China and other foreign countries.....	7.5	62	11	13	13	1	[214/215]
Cut subsidies for coal production on federal lands in the West and use the revenues to help struggling communities that are dependent on coal to diversify their economies and create new jobs. Many of these struggling coal communities are in the Appalachian region, including West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky.....	7.3	54	17	16	10	3	[208/209]
Increase the royalty rate for coal mining on taxpayer-owned national public lands from twelve-point-five percent to eighteen-point-seven-five percent so that coal companies pay the same royalty rate that oil and gas companies pay for drilling in federal waters offshore such as the Gulf of Mexico.....	7.0	53	13	16	14	4	[178/179]
Stop auctioning off America's public lands to coal companies to be strip mined.....	6.8	52	10	17	18	3	[212/213]

FACTUALS: Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

F1. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

Grade school.....	1	[216/217]
Some high school	3	
High school graduate	23	
Some college, no degree	18	
Vocational training/2-year college	11	
4-year college/bachelor's degree	25	
Some postgraduate work, no degree	2	
2 or 3 years' postgraduate work/master's degree	13	
Doctoral/law degree	3	
Not sure/refused	1	

F2. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be very conservative, somewhat conservative, middle of the road, somewhat liberal, or very liberal?

Very conservative	20	[218]
Somewhat conservative	24	
Middle of the road.....	32	
Somewhat liberal	16	
Very liberal.....	6	
Not sure	2	
Total Conservative	44	
Total Liberal	22	

F3. What is the best way to describe the area where you live--a city, a suburb, a small town, or a rural area?

A city.....	26	[219]
A suburb	25	
A small town	24	
A rural area.....	24	
Not sure.....	1	

F4a. Did you vote in the 2012 election for president between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney?

Yes, voted.....	94	[220]
No, did not vote.....	5	
Wasn't eligible (VOL)	-	
Can't recall whether voted	1	

F5. Finally, if you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than forty thousand dollars, between forty thousand dollars and sixty thousand dollars, between sixty thousand dollars and eighty thousand dollars, between eighty thousand dollars and one hundred thousand dollars, or would the total be more than one hundred thousand dollars?

Less than \$40,000	22	[222]
Between \$40,000 and \$60,000	19	
Between \$60,000 and \$80,000	16	
Between \$80,000 and \$100,000	10	
More than \$100,000	19	
Not sure/refused.....	14	