

POLLING ADVISORY

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Cooper & Secrest Associates
DATE: December 26, 2007
RE: Fresh Statewide Polling Results Re: Proposed Sunflower (Holcomb) Plants

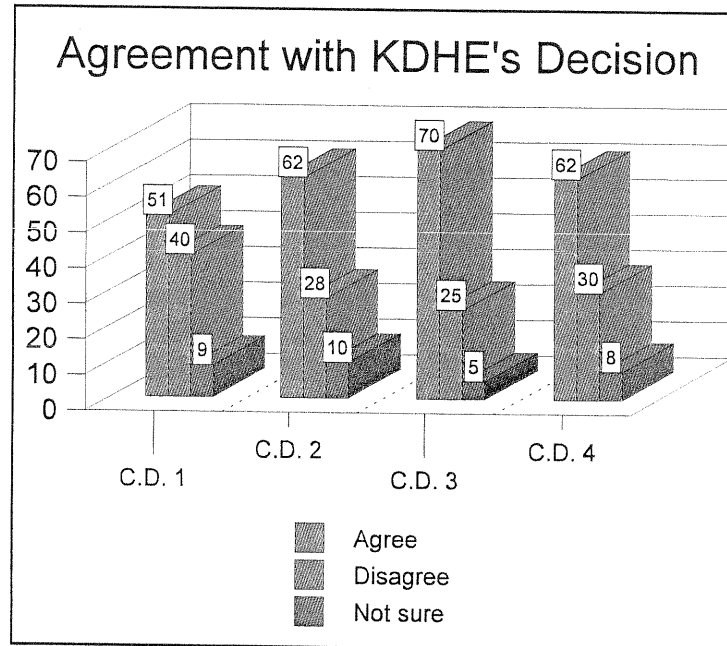
On November 19-20, 25-26, Cooper & Secrest Associates conducted a statewide survey of 1,007 likely Kansas voters, including a significant oversample (n=400) of 1st C.D. voters, on behalf of The Land Institute. The survey focused primarily on energy issues facing Kansas. Below we highlight several key findings:

- *By a 2:1 margin (62% agree, 31% disagree), Kansas voters agree with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's decision to block construction of the two new coal burning plants near Holcomb, Kansas. Here is the question that was asked:*

“As you may have heard, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment recently REJECTED a permit to allow Sunflower Electric Power to build two new coal burning electricity-generating plants near Holcomb, in western Kansas. The state denied permission to build these plants because the plants would produce up to 11 million tons of carbon dioxide each year, which the state says will have an adverse affect on our environment and health, and will contribute to climate change known as global warming. Opponents of this decision claim it is an arbitrary one, since other carbon dioxide-producing businesses have not been similarly regulated, that it is a decision based on shaky scientific claims, and one that will have a negative economic impact on the state. What do you think? Do you agree or disagree with the state's decision to block construction of these two, new coal burning electricity plants? Would that be strongly (AGREE/DISAGREE) or somewhat (AGREE/DISAGREE)?”

Indeed, 42% 'strongly agree' vs. just 18% who 'strongly disagree'.

- *In the 1st C.D., where the plants would have been located, a 51% majority also agree with the decision, a mark that does not fall below 62% 'agree' anywhere else in the state, and rises to fully 70% in the 3rd C.D.*



A majority of both Democrats and Republicans agree with the decision.

- As an argument in FAVOR of the decision, fully 48% find 'very persuasive' the following: **"The way we create and use energy is no longer simply an economic question; it is a moral issue involving the well being of our children, and generations to come."** By contrast, just 27% find 'very persuasive' as an argument AGAINST the decision to block, the following: **"Without these two plants coming on-line, Kansas and its citizens stand to lose millions in economic development and hundreds of jobs."**
- What's more, fully 75% of Kansas voters make plain their strong preference FOR expanded use of *wind energy* here in the nation's 3rd-best 'wind state'.; 75% choose Statement A, below, including 84% of Democrats and 72% of Republicans, 84% of liberals and 71% of conservatives:

“Which of the following statements about wind power comes closer to your point of view? (READ STATEMENTS.)

Statement A: Now more than ever we need to commit to alternative energy sources such as electric power generated by wind. We have the technology, if we only we have the political will to invest sufficiently in it.

Statement B: Wind energy is a nice idea, but is ultimately insufficient to meet much of our energy needs. And placing huge wind turbines all over our beautiful rural landscapes is hardly the path to sound environmental stewardship. We need to focus our efforts on more practical sources of energy.”

- All of this emerges in a political context in which Kansas voters criticize their state legislature's priorities and performance (**state legislative job ratings: just 35% positive, 61% negative**).

CONCLUSION

The simple fact is that a healthy majority of Kansas voters endorse the decision by KDHE to block construction of these two Sunflower plants. Furthermore, Kansans are anxious to see their legislators get on with the critical issues and opportunities they have yet to address, rather than revisit a decision that the majority of Kansans favor. Clearly Kansans would also look favorably upon increased investments in wind energy and on legislators who actively support such investments.