

September 29, 2022

To: Interested Parties

Fr: Impact Research

Re: Maryland Voters are Concerned About Energy Prices and Support Increasing Natural Gas Production as a Solution

Heading in to the 2022 election, **likely voters in our recent Maryland poll are overwhelmingly concerned about rising energy costs and believe increasing natural gas production has the potential to lower costs.** As a result, majorities of voters support building new pipelines and export facilities in the state that would facilitate increased production. In an increasingly turbulent election cycle, support for increasing natural gas production meets voters' concerns and offers a political upside for candidates.

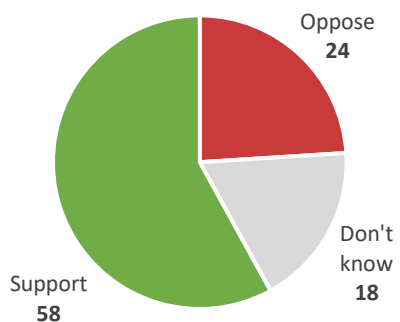
- **High energy costs are a major concern for Maryland voters, and they are looking for elected officials to help lower them.** Nearly 4-in-5 voters in Maryland (79%) are concerned about increased energy costs impacting their personal finances, including nearly half (45%) who are very concerned. These concerns span income brackets, with 83% of voters with incomes under \$75,000 and 76% of those with incomes over \$75,000 who are concerned about increased energy costs. A majority of voters overall (53%) and a plurality of persuadable voters (48%) and Independents (47%) believe lowering energy costs should be at least a high priority for elected officials.
- **There is consensus that increasing natural gas production will help lower costs and doing so fits with the direction voters want to see the state go in to transition to cleaner energy.** Overall, 63% of voters believe increasing natural gas production will cause energy costs to go down while only a small percentage (11%) think it will cause an increase. They do not see this as running counter to the state transitioning to cleaner energy sources because voters see natural gas as clean energy rather than a dirty fossil fuel by a 22-point margin (46% clean energy / 24% fossil fuel) and they want the state's energy policy to use any options currently available to keep energy affordable and reliable, including majorities of Democrats (68%), Independents (71%), and Republicans (52%).
- **The result is a strong majority of voters (58%) support increasing natural gas production in the United States while less than a quarter (24%) oppose it.** Support for increasing natural gas production is consistent among Maryland voters, with at least a majority in support across most major demographic,

These findings are based on the results of a multi-modal poll of likely 2022 voters in Maryland by Impact Research. A total of N=600 responses were collected between September 9th and 18th, 2022. The margin of error for a sample of this size is +/- 4.0 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence.

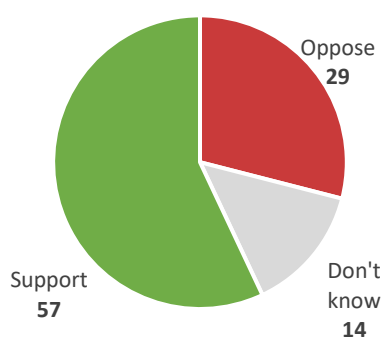
geographic, and ideological subgroups. Critically, Black voters (58%) and people of color in general (59%) are as supportive of increasing natural gas production as voters overall.

- Support for increasing natural gas production is politically beneficial for candidates.** By a 23-point margin, voters in Maryland say they would be more likely to vote for political candidates who support increasing natural gas production (42% more likely, 19% less likely). Although Democrats hold a 25-point lead on the generic ballot in Maryland (54% Democrat, 29% Republican, 18% persuadable), supporting increased natural gas production still offers tremendous political upside as both persuadable voters and Independents say they are more likely to vote for candidates that do by more than 20-point margins (persuadable voters +21 / Independents +22).
- There is broad support for building the infrastructure needed to produce more natural gas.** In general, 60% of voters support building new natural gas pipelines to eliminate the obstacle that a lack of infrastructure creates for increasing production. Voters are even more supportive of building new natural gas pipelines if it means improving the country's energy independence (83%), and Democrats are particularly supportive if it means using less coal (82%).
- Voters are almost equally supportive of building new natural gas pipelines and infrastructure specifically in Maryland.** Overall, 57% would support building pipelines in Maryland while just 29% are opposed to it. This includes positive margins of support among Democrats (+1 net support), Independents (+30), and Republicans (+81). Support for building pipelines in Maryland increases to near unanimous levels if it means lowering energy costs (82%) or increasing reliability (79%). Additionally, 65% of voters would support increasing the use of Maryland's liquified natural gas export facility, the only one currently on the East Coast, to export more liquified natural gas to Europe and other countries around the world that are facing shortages.

Do you support or oppose increasing the production of natural gas in the United States?



Would you support or oppose building new natural gas pipelines in Maryland?



Do you support or oppose exporting more liquified natural gas through Maryland's export facility?

