

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Corrie Hunt, Jay Campbell, & Geoff Garin
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RE: National Survey Finds Voters Want Democrats to Fight Budget Bill Cuts to Clean Energy

Hart Research conducted a national survey of 1,285 registered voters from June 3-5, 2025. The survey, sponsored by Climate Power, assessed public reaction to the Republican budget bill's proposed elimination of clean energy investments and tested what voters want Democratic leaders in Congress to do in response.

1. **Voters see the Republican budget bill's energy plan as a direct threat to their wallets, energy reliability, and the broader economy.**
 - After learning about the energy policies in the budget bill, 61% of voters say the plan would hurt average Americans, and 59% say it would hurt them and their families personally. Black voters (67%) and women under 50 (69%) are especially likely to expect it to hurt them personally, but concern cuts across groups, including a majority of white voters without a college degree (55%).
 - 62% of voters expect electricity prices to rise if the Republican budget bill passes. Large majorities of Democrats (86%) and independents (71%) expect electricity prices to go up, while even Republicans see more harm than benefit (39% prices up vs 27% down).
 - 58% of voters believe the bill would hurt the reliability of the electric grid, including 82% of Democrats and 60% of independents. Similarly, by a 14-point margin, voters say the bill would hurt the overall U.S. economy (55% hurt, 41% help).
2. **Clean energy investments have crossover appeal, with many Republican voters opposed to cuts in the budget bill.**
 - Nearly six in 10 Republicans (57%) say it's very or fairly important for the United States to increase its use of clean and renewable energy sources like wind power and solar energy. A nearly identical share (56%) say Congress should protect clean energy investments in the budget bill.
 - When Republicans hear details about the energy cuts, majorities of Republicans want Democrats to oppose key elements: 62% want Democrats to oppose increasing families' energy costs by ending clean energy programs, rebates, and incentives, and another 65% want Democrats to oppose provisions that would reduce the reliability of the U.S. electric grid.
 - There is little political risk for Democrats in taking this fight: only 18% of voters overall would feel negative toward Senate Democrats who fight to protect clean energy investments, and Republicans are evenly divided (33% positive, 30% negative) on this point.

% saying Democrats should oppose things the Republican budget bill would do

	Should definitely oppose this	Should probably oppose this		% Top 3 MOST want Democrats to oppose
Increase families' energy costs by ending clean energy programs, rebates, and incentives	54%	22%	75%	45
Reduce the reliability of the U.S. electric grid by eliminating upgrades to it	49%	25%	75%	37
Get rid of tax credits that help people make their homes more energy-efficient and afford energy-efficient appliances	41%	25%	66%	33
Eliminate tax credits for renewable energy projects like solar power and wind	37%	27%	65%	28
Protect corporate subsidies and special tax breaks for oil and gas companies	39%	23%	62%	28
Open up millions of acres of public lands to drilling, mining, and logging, which have been protected	39%	21%	60%	42
Get rid of the tax credit that lowers the cost of buying an electric car	31%	28%	58%	23

3. **Rising energy costs, threats to the reliability of the grid, and public land giveaways in the Republican budget bill spark the strongest voter backlash.**

- Large majorities of voters want Democrats to oppose energy-related provisions in the Republican budget bill. The strongest reactions center on outcomes that would increase families' energy costs and reduce the reliability of the electric grid.
- While Democrats want their elected leaders in Congress to oppose the full slate of outcomes, they feel most strongly about protecting public lands (56%). Independents emphasize both public lands (48%) and energy costs (44%).

4. **Voters' concerns on cost and reliability give Democrats strong frames to defend clean energy, while national security and energy dominance create an opening to go on offense against a core Republican argument.**

- Three messages stand out as the most effective frames for opposing efforts to eliminate clean energy investments:
 - **[COSTS]** *With energy prices already high, now is the time to produce more energy--not less--to drive down those costs. Cutting clean energy means America produces less energy overall, and that means families will pay even more to keep the lights on. Repealing clean energy investments could increase energy costs by \$110 per family starting next year. (43% very persuasive)*
 - **[NATIONAL SECURITY]** *No foreign country should be able to threaten or control America's energy supply. To protect our national security and energy dominance, we need to produce as much energy as possible here at home. American-made clean energy keeps both money and power here in the U.S., not overseas. (46% very persuasive)*
 - **[RELIABILITY]** *We've seen what happens when there is severe heat, ice storms, and other dangerous extreme weather: thousands of people lose power. Lives are put at risk and businesses lose millions of dollars. Eliminating these investments would leave the electric grid weaker and more vulnerable when we need it most. (39% very persuasive)*
- The cost and reliability arguments are most persuasive with Democrats and independents. The national security frame generates the strongest response from Republicans and offers a potential opening to neutralize one of Trump's perceived strengths on energy.

5. **Voters overwhelmingly oppose cuts to clean energy in the Republican budget bill, and they want Democrats to fight back.**

- Three in four (73%) voters say Congress should not eliminate clean energy investments in the budget bill, including 51% who feel strongly. Opposition cuts across party lines: 90% of Democrats, 74% of independents, and 56% of Republicans oppose these cuts.
- Before hearing any details, voters already lean against the Republican budget bill overall (47% oppose, 38% support, 16% unsure). Once voters learn more about what clean energy programs would be eliminated and what's at stake, opposition jumps to 67%.
- Voters want Democrats to take a stand to protect clean energy investments. Fully 60% say they would feel positive toward Senate Democrats who fight to protect clean energy investments, including 88% of Democrats and 60% of independents.