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James Lee, President

TO: John Hanger, Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future

FROM: Jim Lee, Dave Rodbart

RE: **Statewide Energy Poll Summary**

DATE: Monday, June 11, 2007

Following are three general conclusions summarizing the poll's key findings, with supporting documentation for each:

### **I. Most Pennsylvanians Think We Should Be Doing More To Increase Energy Conservation**

Most Pennsylvanians are concerned about both the rising costs of traditional energy sources in recent years and the impact of greenhouse gases on the environment, and therefore believe it is important for individuals and businesses alike to increase their use of alternative energy sources in the future. For example:

- A combined 94% of voters are concerned about the rising costs of fuel oil, natural gas, gasoline and other traditional energy sources in recent years, including 73% who are "very" concerned.
- A combined 82% say they are concerned about global warming and the impact of greenhouse gases on the environment.
- A combined 96% of voters think it is important for consumers and businesses to increase their use of alternative sources of energy like wind, solar, hydropower and others as a way to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, including 77% who think it is "very" important.

### **II. Pennsylvanians Overwhelmingly Support State Programs Encouraging Investment in Alternative Energy Sources**

An overwhelming percentage of Pennsylvanians support the state's efforts to attract clean energy companies to come to Pennsylvania as a way to help increase energy conservation, improve the environment and reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil. For example:

- By an 87/6 margin, most believe the state should take steps to attract clean energy companies to invest in Pennsylvania to increase our domestic fuel supplies. Moreover, 88% believe the state should encourage private investment in alternative sources of renewable energy to boost conservation, improve the environment and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.
- By a 77/15 margin, Pennsylvanians believe it is “good public policy” for state government to invest tax dollars in the development of renewable energy sources.
- By a 67/23 margin, Pennsylvanians support the use of tax dollars to encourage both bio-diesel and ethanol fuel plants to locate in Pennsylvania.
- Eighty-nine (89) percent of Pennsylvanians agree the state should do more to encourage the use of alternative energy sources if it means we can improve the environment and at the same time, give consumers and businesses the tools to reduce demand for electricity especially during peak usage hours.

### **III. Pennsylvanians Support Creation of New Energy Independence Fund**

Most voters support creation of a new energy independence fund so we can encourage companies that manufacture clean, renewable energy sources to invest in Pennsylvania, and most say they are willing to pay slightly higher electricity bills in the near term if it means we will be able to stabilize energy costs for consumers and businesses in the long run and at the same time, increase energy conservation and help reduce our dependence on foreign oil. For example:

- By a 78/18 margin, most Pennsylvanians say they would be willing to pay an additional one dollar per month or less to support encouraging the investment of alternative sources of clean energy.
- By more than a 2:1 margin (or 68/25), most Pennsylvanians support paying a new 45-cent monthly charge, or \$5.40 more per year, to create a new Energy Independence Fund to encourage companies that can manufacture and produce alternative fuels and other forms of clean, renewable energy to locate in Pennsylvania if it means we can increase energy conservation, stabilize energy costs for consumers and businesses and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Support for this new 45-cent systems benefit charge includes a majority of voters in most key demographic groups, such as:
  - Party Registration: A majority of Republicans (67%), Democrats (73%), and Independents (66%) support the plan.
  - Ideology: A majority of self-described conservatives (67%), liberals (76%), and moderates (69%) support the plan.

- Gender: Support for the plan includes most men (64%) and women (72%).
- Age: Support for the plan includes a majority of all age groups, including 18-29 year olds (77%), 30-44 year olds (72%), 45-59 year olds (69%), and 60+ voters (65%).
- Region: Voters in all regions of the state support the plan, including the Northwest (65%), Southwest (61%), "T" Central (66%), Northeast (70%), South-Central/Harrisburg (66%), Southeast (74%), Allegheny County (65%), and Philadelphia (73%).
- Income: A majority of voters in all household income brackets support the plan, including less than \$50,000 a year (68%), \$51-\$99,000 a year (71%), and \$100,000+ a year (73%)
- Eighty-three (83) percent of Pennsylvanians agree paying less than \$6 dollars more per year is a worthwhile investment to make if it means we can reduce our reliance on foreign oil and at the same time, help consumers stabilize energy bills over the long run.
- When asked how it would influence their vote if their legislator voted to increase charges on their electric bill by 45-cents per month to make Pennsylvania more energy independent, a combined 79% said it would make them "more likely" to vote for their legislator or have "no impact" on their vote. Since more than 3 out of 4 voters indicated the issue wouldn't affect their vote in a negative way, voting for the plan should not create problems for legislators seeking reelection.

Other key findings of the poll include the following:

- Seventy-four (74) percent of Pennsylvanians say they are "more likely" to support a new energy independence fund when told it will help us compete with other states to attract clean energy companies to locate in the state, which in turn will help boost the economy and create thousands of good-paying jobs.
- By a 70/08 margin, most Pennsylvanians say they would be "more likely" to support a new energy independence fund when told it will save the average consumer \$73 per year as a result of the increased energy conservation and reduced demand for electricity.
- Seventy-three (73) percent say they would like the option to apply for rebates of up to \$100 to replace inefficient household appliances like refrigerators and air conditioners to help cut energy bills, and 62% say they would like the option to have "smart" meters installed in their homes to help monitor and reduce energy spending.

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