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**POLL: Majority of Nevada Small Businesses Support EPA Standards Even if it Means Rise in Utility Costs**

*Vast majority of Nevada small business owners believe clean energy investments spur job creation and economic growth, and support various EPA standards even if they impact their business*

Opinion polling shows Nevada small business owners support government investments in clean energy and believe such investments have an important role in creating jobs and boosting the economy—even if it means an increase in utility costs.

The poll, released today by Small Business Majority and conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, found 61 percent of small employers in Nevada would support the Environmental Protection Agency regulating carbon pollution and other emissions even if it meant an increase in utility rates. This strong support makes sense considering that 60 percent of the state's small businesses believe government investments in clean energy play an important role in creating jobs and boosting the economy.

"Small business owners in Nevada are eager for pragmatic energy policies that can help them develop new technologies and increase business opportunities," said John Arensmeyer, founder and CEO of Small Business Majority. "They understand that to survive in this tough economy they need creative solutions to curb costs and increase their competitive edge. These include continued government investments in clean energy and the enforcement of standards that reduce harmful emissions in their communities. Right now, giving small businesses the incentives and tools needed to drive job creation and increase market competitiveness should be a top priority."

Small businesses in the state even support continued government investment in clean energy technologies when asked specifically about Solyndra: 55 percent agree the failure of the company—which received a \$535 million loan guarantee from the federal government—doesn't mean the government should stop investing in renewable technologies.

While respondents indicated overall support for government investment in general, specific government actions are even more popular. Across the board, small business owners expressed overwhelming support for 14 separate actions the federal government could take to support moving to a clean energy economy. A strong majority showed support for programs such as establishing minimum recycling standards, offering tax credits and rebates for upgrades, creating a "Green Bank" and increasing fuel efficiency standards.

"At my business, we work hard to be as energy efficient as possible," said Monica Gresser, owner of Brazen Architecture Inc. in Las Vegas. "All our efforts to operate efficiently make a difference when it comes to business costs, whether it's recycling paper or minimizing travel so we can save on our fuel expenses. The mileage that so many cars get today is horrendous, and businesses would be better off financially if fuel efficiency standards were raised so we could save gas money. Raising those standards is one of many clean energy investments that make economic sense for everyone in the long run, regardless of your industry."

Small business owners also demonstrated strong support for recently released Environmental Protection Agency standards that require new power plants to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases. The vast majority—73 percent—favor the EPA’s rule that new power plants reduce previously unlimited emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide despite the fact that 57 percent say their business would be impacted.

When asked about the biggest problems facing their companies, Nevada small businesses cite the rising cost of doing business, such as higher fuel and electricity costs (39 percent) and higher material and supply costs (27 percent). Twenty-seven percent also cited lack of consumer demand. Government regulation ranked fifth on the list of concerns, with only one in five small businesses saying it’s one of their two biggest problems.

Other findings from the poll include:

- 74 percent of respondents support EPA rules to reduce the emissions of mercury, arsenic, chromium, nickel and acid gases from new and existing power plants.
- 70 percent of small business owners favor proposed rules to reduce smog and soot pollution that crosses state lines (the “Good Neighbor Rule”).
- 71 percent of Nevada small business owners believe government should play an important role in creating financial incentives that encourage people to take energy efficiency measures, like installing energy efficient light bulbs. Nearly 7 in 10 believe government should provide incentives through funding and policy efforts.
- Small business owners polled were politically diverse: 44 percent identified as Republican, 36 percent as Democrat, 11 percent as independent and 8 percent as “other.”

For more information visit: <http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/small-business-research/clean-energy/>

Poll results in this statement represent findings from an Internet survey of 600 small businesses in Nevada, Colorado, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia. The poll was conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research for Small Business Majority with a margin of error of +/- 4%.

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### **Who is the Small Business Majority?**

We are a national nonpartisan small business advocacy organization founded and run by small business owners and focused on solving the biggest problems facing America’s 28 million small businesses. We conduct extensive opinion and economic research and work with small business owners, policy experts and elected officials nationwide to bring small business voices to the public policy table. Learn more about us on [Wikipedia](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).