



**From: Tom Jensen, Director of Public Policy Polling**

**To: Interested Parties**

**Subject: Support for Energy Bill from Massachusetts Small Business Owners**

**Date: 7/12/10**

Small business owners in Massachusetts strongly believe the country needs to move toward clean energy and that new energy policies will transform the economy and help them create new jobs. They support comprehensive clean energy and climate legislation currently being discussed in the US Senate. Support for a climate and energy bill from Senators John Kerry and Scott Brown would be a winner with small business owners back home. A Public Policy Polling survey of 319 small business owners across a three state region including Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire were interviewed for this survey including 167 specifically in Massachusetts between July 7th and 11th, found that:

\*66% of small business owners support the bill being debated in Washington right now compared to only 31% who are opposed. That includes support from majorities of Democrats (86/9) and independents (59/36). Owners of businesses with less than \$250,000 in annual revenue are particularly supportive of the bill, with 69% favoring it and 27% opposed.

\*69% of small business owners think that moving the country to clean energy is a smart way to restart the economy and help small businesses create jobs. That sentiment is shared by 87% of Democratic business owners, 65% of ones who identify as political independents, and 52% of Republican ones. Owners of businesses with fewer than 10 employees are particularly optimistic that a shift in energy sources will spur job creation.

\* 66% of small business owners agree that adopting new energy policies will transform the economy and want their businesses to be part of the revitalization, compared with 28% who don't.

\*68% of business owners think America should focus on maximizing the value of the energy we use and invest in clean energy while just 21% think the country should keep subsidizing oil companies.

\*Small business owner support for the bill will increase even further if it includes several tools to help them take advantage of new developments in clean energy. This includes





interest free loans to help them make energy efficiency upgrades, free energy audits to help them learn how to reduce usage and save money, and consultation on how they can profit from the emerging clean energy industry.

PPP interviewed 167 small business owners in Massachusetts from July 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>.

