



**For immediate release
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New poll shows Oregonians oppose coal exports through the Columbia Gorge
Numbers confirm: the more residents learn about coal exports, the more they are opposed.

Portland, OR – In a new poll of 725 Oregon voters, a six-point statewide plurality initially opposes coal exports through the Columbia River Gorge, and opposition grows to a double-digit majority as voters hear more information on both sides of the issue. After hearing arguments from both sides, opponent out number supporters by 16 percentage points, 54%-38%. Anzalone Liszt Grove Research conducted the poll on June 11-12 for Friends of the Columbia Gorge and the Power Past Coal Coalition.

“Oregonians cherish the Gorge and want it protected from irresponsible development, including coal exports,” said Michael Lang, conservation director of Friends of the Columbia Gorge. “While coal companies have spent millions of dollars in paid commercials selling these coal export proposals, Oregonians aren’t buying it. And the more voters learn about these proposals, the more they are opposed.”

Three coal export proposals are pending that would transport up to 100 million metric tons of coal annually by rail or barge through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. This is the first poll to ask Oregon voters and Gorge residents about their opinions of coal export proposals through the Columbia River Gorge, a protected National Scenic Area.

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is federally protected from development that would harm its natural scenic beauty, fish and wildlife or recreation. The poll confirms Oregon voters support these protections by a 3:1 margin. Rural Gorge counties in Oregon, including Hood River and Wasco Counties, support Gorge protection by more than 2:1.

Opponents of these plans initially outnumber supporters by six percentage points and opposition grows to 16 points statewide as voters hear equal lengths of information from both the supporters’ and opponents’ positions. After hearing arguments from both sides on the coal export issue, Hood River and Wasco county residents oppose the plans by 52% to 44%.

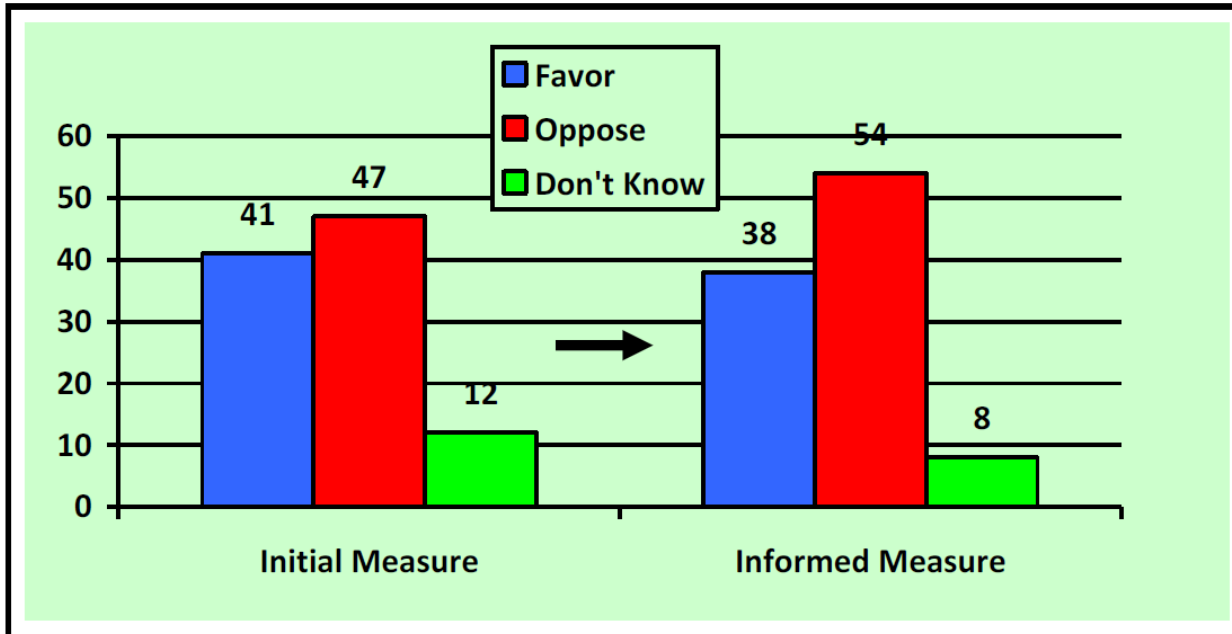
Pro/con question:

“Supporters of the plan say that the proposed coal export terminals in the Northwest would create thousands of new jobs, boost the local economy in communities with export terminals, and create additional revenue to help these local governments fund schools and public safety.

Opponents of the plan say that huge increases in coal barges and open-topped coal trains would dump dangerous amounts of coal dust and pollutants into the air and waterways of the Columbia Gorge, harm recreation and the economy, and turn the Gorge into the nation's coal chute to Asia.

After hearing this information, do you favor or oppose the plan to double U.S. coal exports by hauling one hundred million tons of coal per year through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area?”

38% Favor / 54% Oppose / 9% Don't Know



“We live in the Columbia River Gorge because of its scenic beauty, abundant recreation opportunities and high quality of life, said Andrea Rodgers, Mayor of the City of Mosier. “Proposals to ship up to 100 million tons of coal through the Gorge by rail and barge would endanger the health of our communities, diminish our quality of life and would hurt the Gorge economy. We are calling on Governor Kitzhaber and members of our congressional delegation to do everything in their power to stop coal exports through the Northwest,” said Rodgers.

[Link to summary of poll results.](#)

About the poll:

Anzalone Liszt Grove Research conducted N=725 IVR telephone interviews and N=100 live-dialed cell phone interviews with registered voters in Oregon. An oversample of N=100 was conducted in Hood River and Wasco Counties. Interviews were conducted between June 11-12, 2013. Respondents were selected at random, with interviews apportioned geographically based on voter registration records. Expected margin of sampling error is $\pm 3.6\%$ with a 95% confidence level.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge is a nonprofit organization with 5,000 members dedicated to protecting and enhancing the scenic beauty, natural and cultural heritage and abundant recreation opportunities of the Columbia River Gorge.

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