



To: Interested Parties

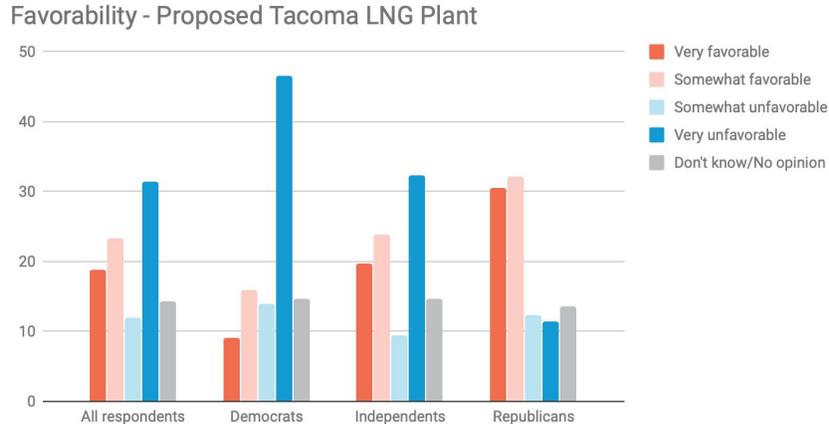
From: Anand Gupta, Change Research

Date: August 2, 2019

Re: Pierce County Voters Concerned About Economic, Environmental Impacts of Tacoma LNG Plant

A poll from Change Research of 604 likely voters in Pierce County, Washington from July 9 - 13 shows that the electorate is concerned about the costs, both economic and environmental, of the proposed liquified natural gas (LNG) plant in Tacoma and strongly support land use regulations to create more clean energy jobs at the Port of Tacoma.

Overall, support for the LNG plant is divided with 42% favorable, 43% unfavorable, and 14% who do not have an opinion. The survey finds large differences in support for the LNG plant based on partisanship, with Democrats 36 points net unfavorable, independents net 2 points favorable, and Republicans net 39 points favorable.



However, emphasizing the economic costs of such a plant with independents and Republicans causes a significant portion of voters in those groups to become opposed to it. For instance, 44% of independents and 45% of Republicans are more likely to oppose the LNG plant after hearing the message that "Puget Sound Energy is putting an unfair burden on ratepayers. Although only 2% of the project is set aside for residential use, ratepayers will pay for 43% of this facility."

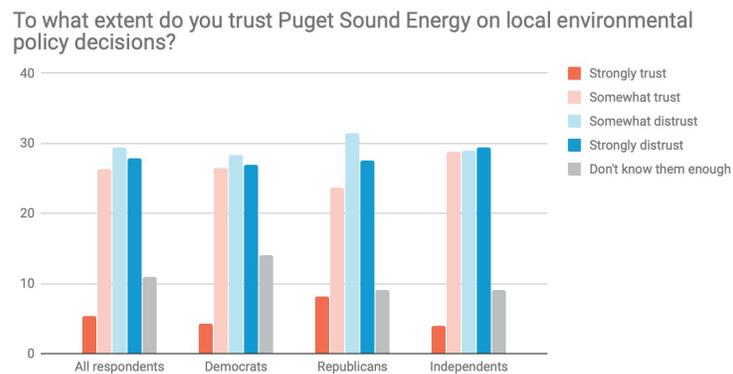
Support for the LNG plant is higher among residents of Pierce County who do not live in Tacoma. Only 8% of non-Tacoma residents feel "very informed" so far about the project,

compared to 27% of Tacoma residents. This suggests an opportunity to provide more information to non-Tacoma residents of the LNG plant’s risks, shown by the 39% of non-Tacoma residents who become more likely to oppose the proposal after hearing the message that “The proposed liquefied natural gas terminal takes us backwards. New fracked gas projects, like the proposed LNG terminal, ties us to dirty fuel, has serious worker and community safety risks, and contributes to climate change.”

Only 8% of respondents between the ages of 18 and 34 felt “very informed” about the LNG plant, but many are persuaded by economic and environmental messaging. In particular, 53% of these respondents become at least “somewhat more likely to oppose the proposal” after hearing that “PSE is putting an unfair burden on ratepayers with their proposed LNG facility. Although only 2% of the project is set aside for residential use, ratepayers will pay for 43% of this facility.”

Additionally, 40% of respondents aged 18 to 34 become at least “somewhat more likely to oppose the proposal” after hearing that “The proposed liquefied natural gas terminal takes us backwards. New fracked gas projects, like the proposed LNG terminal, ties us to dirty fuel, has serious worker and community safety risks, and contributes to climate change.” Respondents 35 and older are substantially more informed about the project, with more than 50% at least “somewhat informed.”

The policy of using land use regulations to create more clean energy jobs at the Port of Tacoma has strong support at 64% overall versus just 26% opposed. Such regulations are favorable across every demographic group, except for relatively mild opposition from Republicans, where it is 39% favorable to 47% unfavorable. Messages on this issue based on local jobs and other economic arguments dovetail with a distrust of Puget Sound Energy - where 57% don't trust Puget Sound Energy, including 58% of Republicans - to cause even greater support.



Only 19% of Pierce County residents are happy with how healthy the environment is to live and work in Pierce County and 75% rate their concern about air quality and pollution a 3 or greater out of 5, including 23% who worry about it on a daily basis. 83% of Tacoma residents rate it a 3 or greater.

Overall, 56% of voters would vote for a candidate that helps incentivize clean energy jobs at the Port of Tacoma and this splits along partisan lines: 79% of Democrats say they would, but only 30% of Republicans. However only 5% of both groups feel “very informed” about the conversation around clean energy jobs at the Port and industrial areas of Tacoma. For Republicans, the opposition appears to stem from their worry about regulatory overreach as 76% of Republicans agree with the opinion that “Land use regulations that claim to be for the environment could actually have a negative impact on business in the Port of Tacoma.” On the other side, 83% of Democrats agree that “The planning process for the Port industrial area is a crucial opportunity to move towards clean energy jobs here.”

As a result of the low familiarity with the conversation around clean energy jobs at the Port of Tacoma, messaging increases opposition to the LNG plant. 35% of Democrats and 27% of Republicans became more likely to oppose the project after hearing that “The Port of Tacoma needs clean energy investments not dirty fracked gas projects. We should be looking to allow ships to use onshore clean electricity while they are docked, invest in efficiency of Port facilities, and seek tenants working in clean energy.”

Elected officials in Pierce County and especially in the city of Tacoma voting in favor of the LNG plant or opposing more clean energy at the Port of Tacoma are not heeding the preferences of their constituents. For instance, 31% of independents and 16% of Trump voters would not support a candidate who votes to authorize the LNG plant. There is asymmetric intensity where few voters in the County will support a candidate because they support building the plant, but swing voters may not support a candidate if they do.

Methodology:

Change Research applied its proprietary Bias Correct approach to solicitations in order to yield a representative sample. Respondents outside of Pierce County, Washington were filtered out, leaving a sample size of 604. The margin of error is 4.7%.

Post-stratification weighting was performed on gender, race/ethnicity, age, Tacoma and outside Tacoma, and 2016 presidential vote. We used L2's voter file for Pierce County's demographic history as a reference for off-cycle elections such as November 2019.