

**Date:** May 23, 2018

**To:** Minnesota Ag Energy Alliance

**From:** Joe Goode, American Strategies

**Re:** Minnesota Statewide Survey Results

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Minnesota voters place a high value on repairing and replacing aging infrastructure in the state – including oil and gas pipelines. These sentiments underlie majority support for the increased use of pipelines to transport oil for efficiency and safety reasons. After hearing a short description, a plurality of voters also has a favorable assessment of the Enbridge Line 3 replacement project, although many voters are still learning about the proposal.

These findings are based on a representative statewide telephone poll of 600 registered voters in Minnesota.<sup>1</sup> The poll measured public opinion on issues related to energy infrastructure, options for transporting oil across the state, and the Enbridge Line 3 proposal.

Minnesotans overwhelmingly agree that it should be a priority to repair and replace aging infrastructure such as roads, bridges, public transportation, and energy infrastructure, including oil and gas pipelines: 84 percent agree this should be a priority, while just 11 percent disagree. A near majority (45 percent) strongly agree with this sentiment.

After hearing about capacity, efficiency, and safety issues, most voters (57 percent) also agree that we should increase usage of pipelines to transport oil to *avoid* increasing the number of rail cars transporting crude through Minnesota.

While voters are still learning about the Line 3 proposal, a near majority (48 percent) have a favorable opinion after hearing a short description of the plan – a full 14-points ahead of those who have an unfavorable view (34 percent). About one-in-five are neutral or do not yet have an opinion.

After hearing about the pipeline route, respondents were asked specifically about the notion of a Line 3 replacement crossing tribal lands. Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) agree that any Line 3 replacement route should respect tribal sovereignty and avoid crossing tribal lands, while only 24 percent disagree.

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<sup>1</sup> *American Strategies designed and administered this telephone survey conducted by professional interviewers. The survey reached 600 adults, age 18 or older, who indicated they were registered to vote in Minnesota. The survey was conducted from May 11-14, 2018. The sample was randomly selected from a private vendor's enhanced voter file and based on vote history. Forty-five percent of respondents were reached on wireless phones. Quotas were assigned to reflect the demographic distribution of registered voters in Minnesota. The data were not weighted. The overall margin of error is +/- 4.0%. The margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies.*