NEW POLLING ON CLIMATE AND TRADE

As the election draws near, we wanted to understand how voters are thinking about climate issues. In particular, how do Republicans feel about climate in 2022, and what would a meaningful agenda look like? It turns out the majority of high propensity, reliable Republican voters polled (54%) – including 71% among voters ages 18 to 34 – believe it’s important for their member of Congress to work to address climate change. At the heart of what motivates these voters lie policy solutions that leverage the strength and efficiency of the U.S. economy to lower global emissions.

THE REPUBLICAN CLIMATE MINDSET

Republicans see the climate challenge as a global issue. The results of this survey consistently show that what animates Republicans most on climate is their belief that China is a major emitter that is not being held to account. Almost three-quarters of Republicans (73%) believe “China is the greatest immediate obstacle to reducing world emissions.”

Republican voters support rewarding lower emitting U.S. industries and penalizing high emitting imports. More than three-quarters (76%) agree that “smart climate policy would reward American businesses and workers for their lower carbon emissions while penalizing the biggest global polluters.”

The concept of a ‘fee’ on high emitting imports is especially resonant with Republican voters. A supermajority (75%) of Republican voters support charging a fee on high-carbon imports. It’s notable that the specific, global accountability-oriented idea of a fee earns greater support than generic ‘policies that discourage carbon pollution.’

Republican voters’ support remains high for more international cooperation and complex policy concepts like a border carbon adjustment. By more than a 3:1 margin, Republicans support a border carbon adjustment to charge a fee on imported goods based on the carbon emitted during their production. Even 60% of self-described “very conservative” voters supported this idea. More than three-quarters (77%) of Republicans are also in favor of working with U.S. allies to penalize products made by high carbon pollution countries.

Methodology: Moore Information Group conducted a public opinion poll of 1,000 “high propensity, reliable Republican voters” nationwide from Sept. 16-19, 2022.