H^{ai} Hickman Analytics, Inc.

Honest Accurate Insight

MEMORANDUM	
TO:	Interested parties
FROM:	Hickman Analytics, Inc.
RE:	North Carolina Survey Results
DATE:	May 15, 2017

Summary. A majority of North Carolina voters support constructing the proposed Atlantic Coast natural gas pipeline. Support for the pipeline is even stronger among voters in countries where the pipeline would be located. Voters overwhelmingly believe pipelines are the safest means to transport natural gas. By a large margin, voters say they are more likely to vote for candidates who favor construction of natural gas infrastructure projects than candidates who oppose them.

Key Findings

Atlantic Coast pipeline project. Half of North Carolina voters (but 67% in the pipeline counties) report having heard about the proposed Atlantic Coast natural gas pipeline which would run from West Virginia and to public utilities in Virginia and North Carolina.

A majority of North Carolina voters support the pipeline project: 52% support, 32% oppose. The breadth of support is impressive. A wide majority of men (62% support, 24% oppose) support the pipeline as do a plurality of women (44% support, 39% oppose).

Atlantic Coast Pipeline			
	Support	**Oppose**	**_Net Support_**
Statewide	52%	32	_+20_
Pipeline counties	60%	29	_+31_
Sex			
Men	62%	24	_+38_
Women	44%	39	_+5_

North Carolina voters believe pipelines are the safest means for transporting natural gas. About two-thirds (64%) believe pipelines are safest, while 11% say railroads and 11% say trucks are safest.

Other energy issues. Several energy issues have been widely debated in North Carolina in recent months. A plurality support completion of the Keystone XL pipeline (48% support, 43% oppose) and expanded off-shore energy production (47% support, 45% oppose). Support for coal power plants is split (45% support, 46% oppose).

Connection to voting. Energy issues are important in the voting decisions of North Carolinians. Overall, 86% say energy issues are very (41%) or somewhat (45%) important in their voting decisions, while only 11% say these matters will not be important.

Substantially more North Carolina voters are likely to vote for a candidate who supports natural gas infrastructure projects like the Atlantic Coast pipeline than a candidate who opposes them: 50% for candidate who supports, 24% for a candidate who opposes.

Political personalities. North Carolina voters are divided in their views of Donald Trump; 47% have a favorable opinion of him while 50% say their opinion is unfavorable. By contrast, a majority of voters have a favorable opinion of newly elected governor Roy Cooper: 54% favorable, 26% unfavorable. As usually is the case, the US Senators are not as well-known as the President or the Governor. When asked about Thom Tillis, 29% have a favorable opinion, 30% have an unfavorable opinion, while 40% do not offer an opinion one way or the other. The same pattern is true for Richard Burr: 39% favorable, 31% unfavorable, and 29% no opinion.

Technical note: This memo is based on a survey of 660 registered voters in North Carolina, with an oversample of interviews with registered voters in seven counties (Northampton, Halifax, Nash, Wilson, Johnston, Cumberland, and Robeson Counties) through which the Atlantic Coast natural gas pipeline may be routed. Telephone interviewing was conducted May 9th through 11th, 2017. The sample was selected so all registered voters were equally likely to be contacted, including a sample of cell phone numbers. The results were adjusted slightly to align the sample with known facts about the geographic and demographic composition of North Carolina registered voters. All polls are subject to errors associated with interviewing a sample rather than the entire universe. The estimation error associated with a sample of 660 is +/-3.8 percentage points. In other words, in 95 out of 100 cases, the results of this poll are within 3.8 percentage points (plus or minus) of the results that would have been achieved in interviews with every registered voter in North Carolina. Estimation errors are higher among subgroups of the sample.