Alaska Venture Fund

Energy Issues & Transition

Alaska Public Opinion Survey Results

survey conducted by:

DITTMAN

Methodology

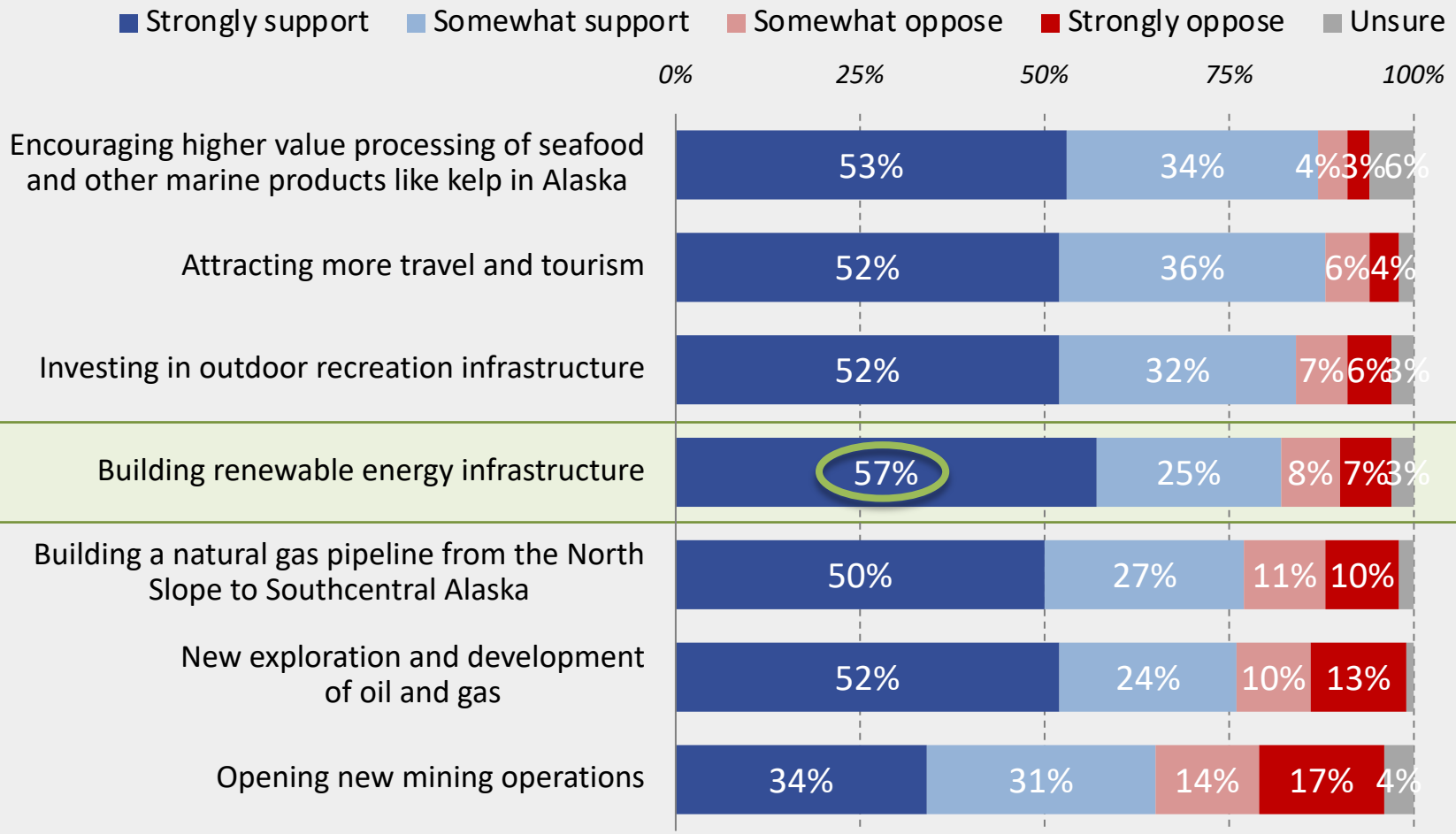
- Field Dates
  - April 28 to May 3, 2023
- Sample
  - N=400, Statewide Alaskan residents, age 18 or older
  - Interview quotas by location, age and gender
- Interview Method
  - Live interviewer telephone survey
  - 63% cell, 37% landline
- Margin of Error
  - ±4.9% at 95% confidence interval for total sample

Key Findings

- From a public opinion perspective, the foundation is laid for energy transition in Alaska.
- A large majority of Alaskans (82%) support building renewable energy infrastructure as a way of strengthening and diversifying Alaska economy.
- At least 74% of Alaskans support prioritizing the development and use of renewable sources of energy in Alaska, including hydroelectric (89% support), solar (78%), and wind (74%).
- Nearly four-out-of-five Alaskans (78%) believe spending state tax dollars on renewable forms of energy is the right direction for the state – over half (55%) say it is “strongly” the right direction.
- A majority of Alaskans (54%) would support a state bill mandating that a certain percentage of energy come from renewable sources.
- There is alignment between what Alaskans find highly important and what renewables can provide in Alaska, including: *Creating jobs, Achieving energy independence,* and *Reducing pollution/improving public health.*

Opinions on major potential economic drivers

- There is significant support for all proposed ways of strengthening and diversifying Alaska economy.
- *Building renewable energy infrastructure* receives the highest level of "strong support" and is the most supported energy development option among those tested.



	Total Support	Total Oppose	Net Support	Ratio support-to-oppose
Encouraging higher value processing of seafood and other marine products like kelp in Alaska	**87%**	7%	+80%	12.4-to-1
Attracting more travel and tourism	**88%**	10%	+78%	8.8-to-1
Investing in outdoor recreation infrastructure	**84%**	13%	+71%	6.5-to-1
Building renewable energy infrastructure	**82%**	15%	+67%	5.5-to-1
Building a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope to Southcentral Alaska	**77%**	21%	+56%	3.7-to-1
New exploration and development of oil and gas	**76%**	23%	+53%	3.3-to-1
Opening new mining operations	**65%**	31%	+34%	2.1-to-1

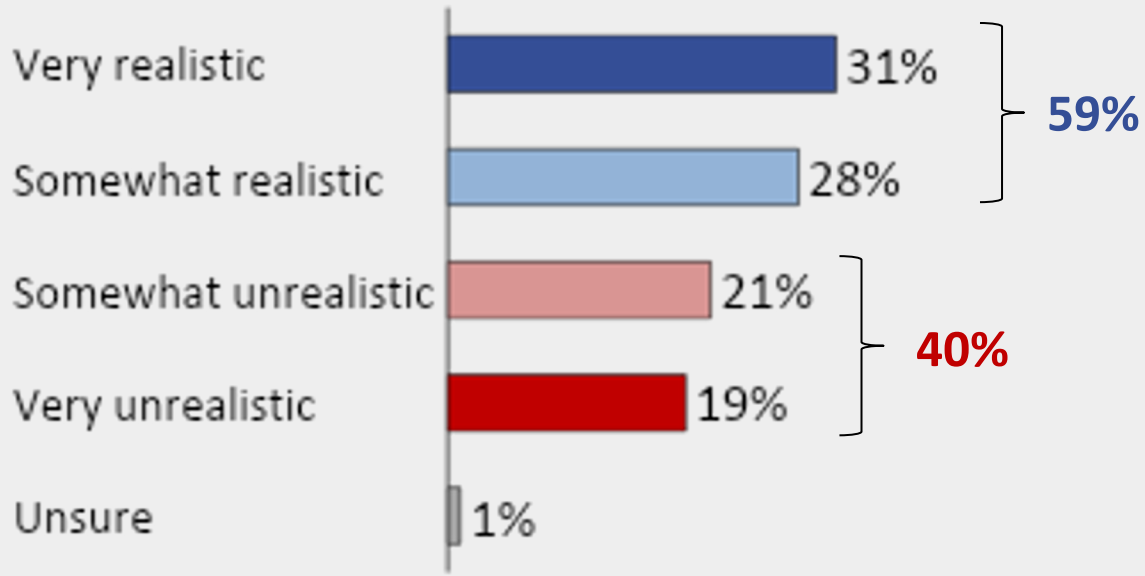
DITTMAN

Next I'm going to read a list of things that have been proposed over the years to strengthen or diversify Alaska's economy. For each proposal, please tell me whether it's something you would likely support or oppose.

Is moving Alaska to primarily renewables realistic?

A large majority of Alaskans (59%) think it's realistic that Alaska could use primarily renewable source of energy.

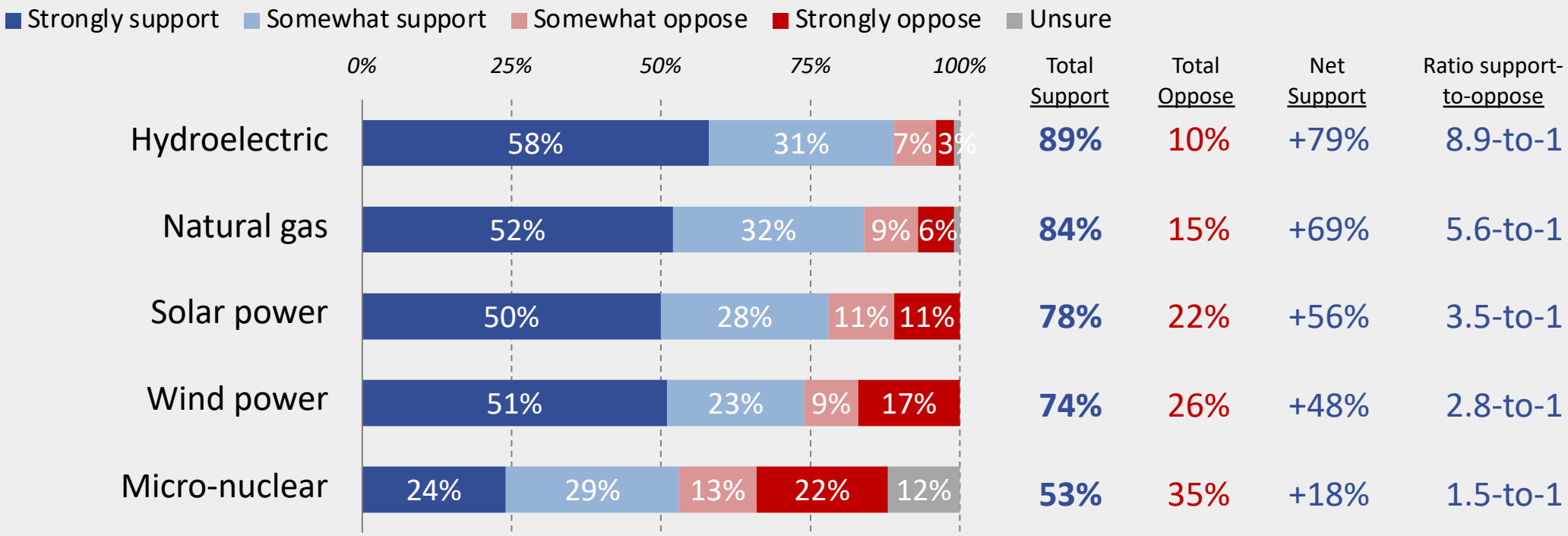
Net Realistic: +19%
Ratio: 1.5-to-1



Do you think it's realistic that Alaska could use primarily renewable sources of energy?

Sources of energy to prioritize in Alaska

- Alaskans report very high and similar levels of support for hydroelectric, natural gas, solar power and wind power.
- Hydroelectric surpasses the other forms of energy due to the level of "strong" support it receives.
- Alaskans are more divided and unsure about micro-nuclear.



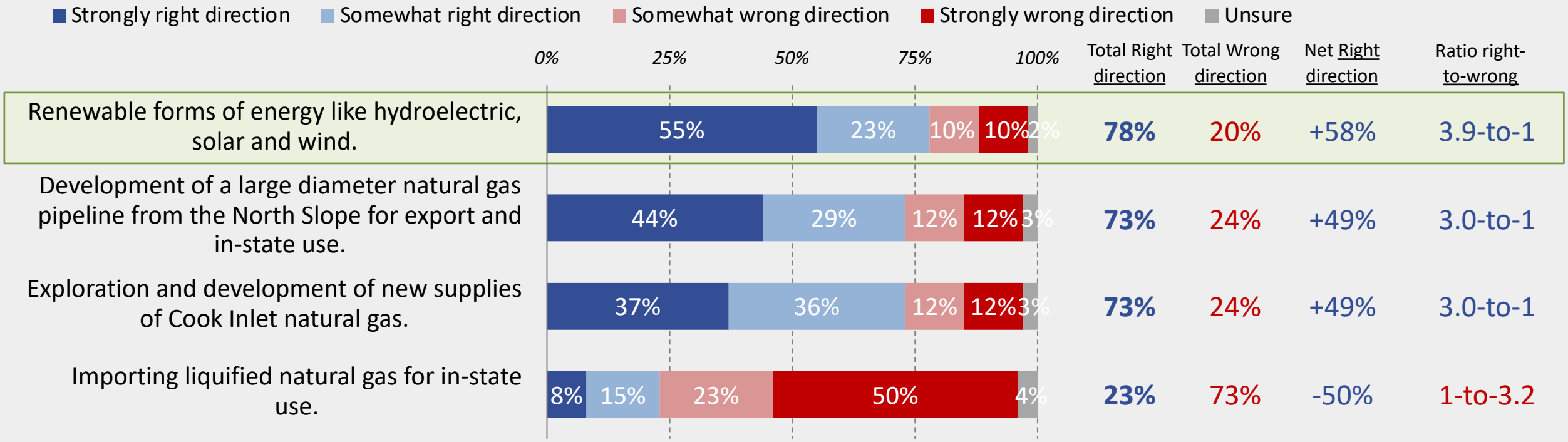
	Total Support	Total Oppose	Net Support	Ratio support-to-oppose
Hydroelectric	**89%**	10%	+79%	8.9-to-1
Natural gas	**84%**	15%	+69%	5.6-to-1
Solar power	**78%**	22%	+56%	3.5-to-1
Wind power	**74%**	26%	+48%	2.8-to-1
Micro-nuclear	**53%**	35%	+18%	1.5-to-1

DITTMAN

I'm going to read a list of energy sources. For each one, please tell me if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose prioritizing the development and use of it as a source of energy in Alaska.

Investing state tax dollars for future energy needs

- Over half of Alaskans (55%) believe spending state tax dollars on renewable forms of energy is "strongly the right direction" for Alaska. Nearly four-out-of-five (78%) in total say it is the right direction.
- Pursuing new in-state natural gas supply is also viewed positively by a wide margin.
- Importing natural gas is viewed as "strongly the wrong direction".



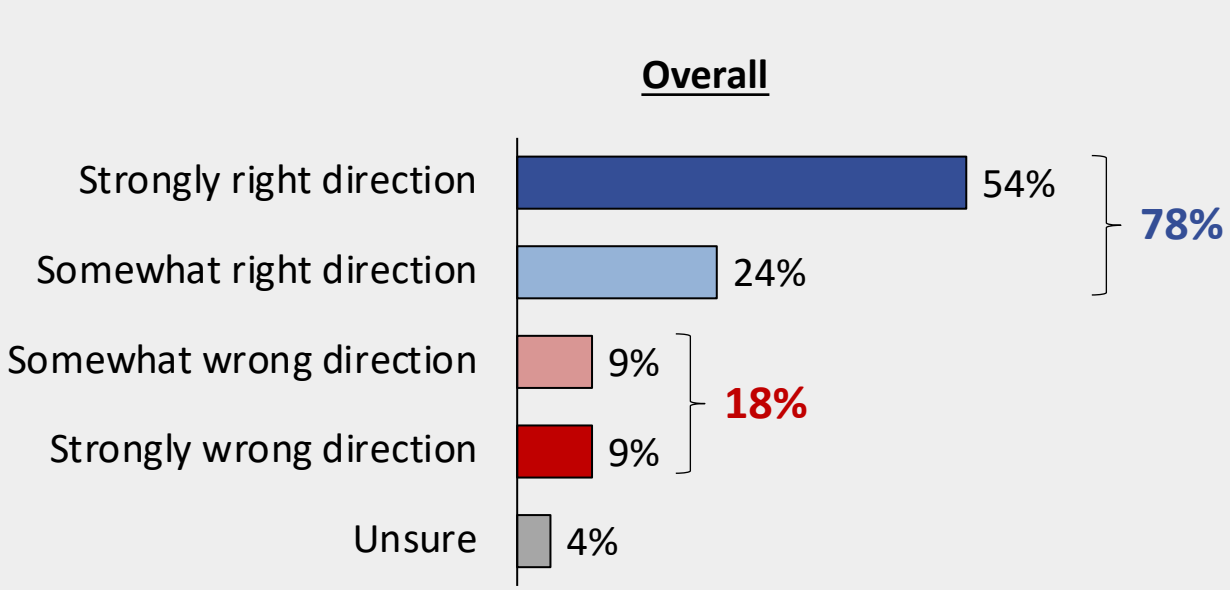
	Total Right direction	Total Wrong direction	Net Right direction	Ratio right-to-wrong
Renewable forms of energy like hydroelectric, solar and wind. (55% / 23% / 10% / 10% / 2%)	**78%**	20%	+58%	3.9-to-1
Development of a large diameter natural gas pipeline from the North Slope for export and in-state use. (44% / 29% / 12% / 12% / 3%)	**73%**	24%	+49%	3.0-to-1
Exploration and development of new supplies of Cook Inlet natural gas. (37% / 36% / 12% / 12% / 3%)	**73%**	24%	+49%	3.0-to-1
Importing liquified natural gas for in-state use. (8% / 15% / 23% / 50% / 4%)	**23%**	73%	-50%	1-to-3.2

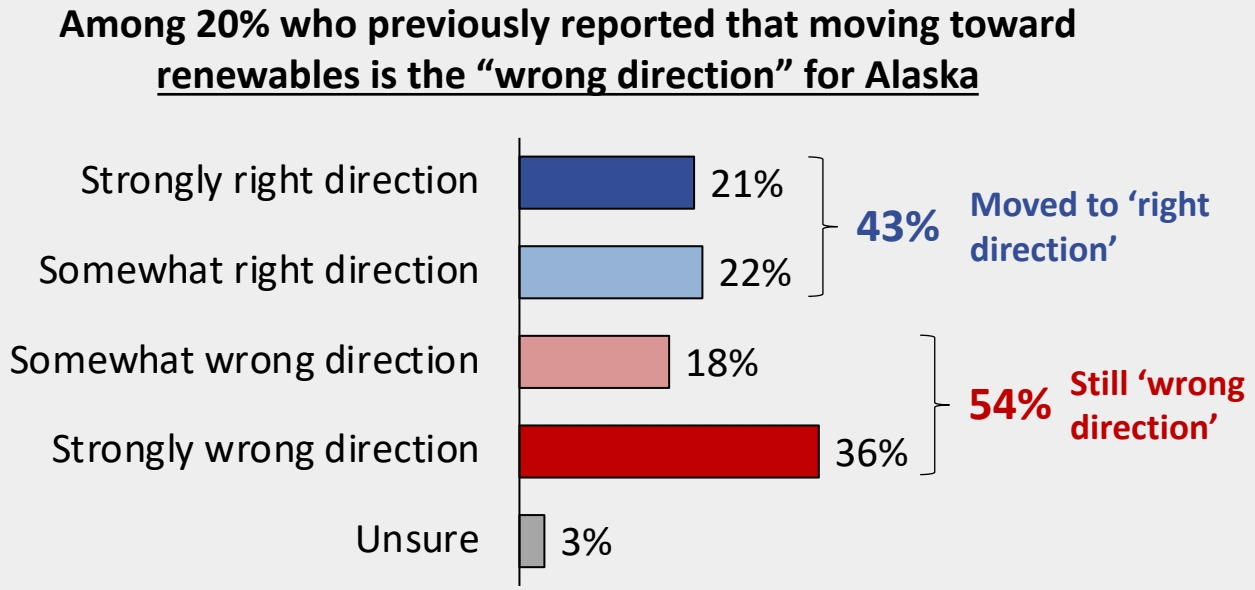
The Alaska Department of Natural Resources projects that within the next 5 to 8 years, the supply of natural gas in Cook Inlet will not be sufficient for in-state energy needs. I'm going to read several areas where the State of Alaska could spend tax dollars to help meet Alaska's future energy needs. For each, please tell me whether you think it would be the right or wrong direction for Alaska? [see toplines for full question]

DITTMAN

Renewable energy produced at same or lower cost than fossil fuel sources

- Informing Alaskans that renewables could be produced at the same or lower cost than fossil fuels had little impact on overall support. The same significant percentage (78%) felt moving toward renewables is the right direction for Alaska before and after presenting this information.
- This information did positively influence 43% of those who originally reported that moving toward renewables is the wrong direction.

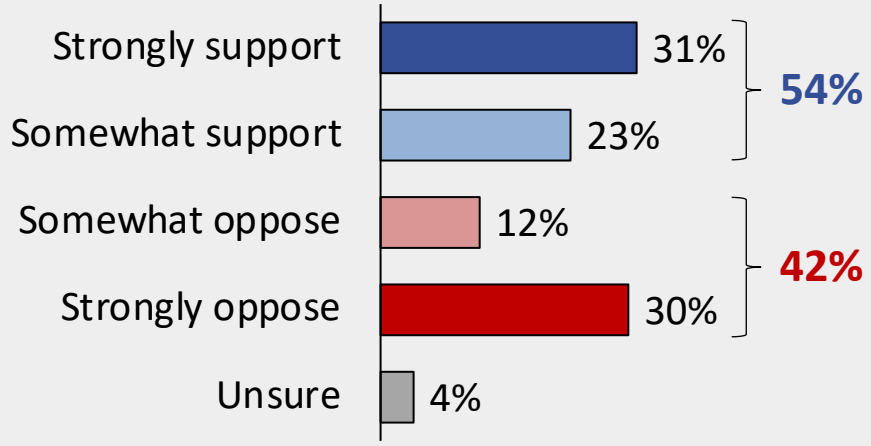




If renewable sources produced energy at the same or lower cost to consumers as fossil fuel sources, do you think moving toward renewable sources of energy would be the right or wrong direction for Alaska?

State renewables mandate

- A state bill mandating a certain percentage of energy come from renewable sources may be supported by a small majority of Alaskans.
- Alaskans are polarized on this topic, with significant percentages in both “strong support” and “strong opposition”.

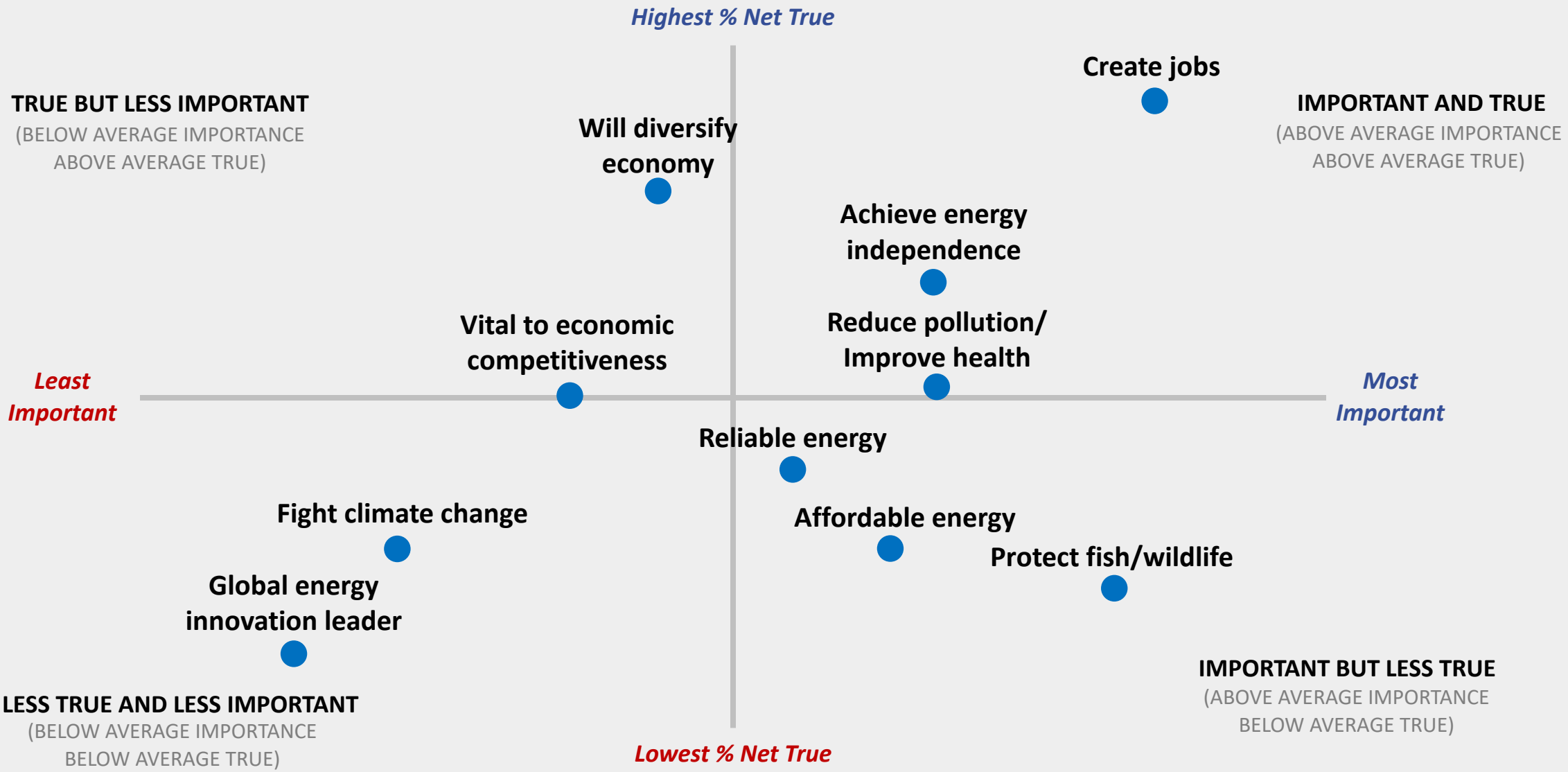


Location	Total Support	Total Oppose	Net Support
Anchorage	56%	39%	+17%
Southcentral	35%	61%	-26%
Interior	61%	39%	+22%
Southeast	68%	28%	+40%
Rural	77%	23%	+54%
Gender			
Male	47%	49%	-2%
Female	60%	37%	+23%
Age			
Under 45 yrs old	53%	41%	+12%
45-64 yrs old	48%	51%	-3%
65+ yrs old	63%	34%	+29%
Best ideas for AK			
Republicans	34%	63%	-29%
Neither	47%	48%	-1%
Democrats	91%	7%	+84%
Baseline opinion on renewables			
Strongly support	76%	22%	+54%
Somewhat support	30%	64%	-34%
Oppose	13%	85%	-72%

The Alaska state legislature is currently considering a bill to mandate that 55% of energy comes from renewable sources by the year 2035 to provide the regulatory certainty that allows renewable energy developers and utilities to invest confidently in Alaska. Is this bill something you would support or oppose?

DITTMAN

Believability & importance of statements in support of using more renewable



Messages supporting transitioning to renewables

- JOBS: Renewable energy requires infrastructure that needs to be operated and maintained, just like our current energy infrastructure. This means increased job opportunities for skilled labor.
- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE: Alaska has the renewable energy potential to secure long-term energy independence using sustainable local resources instead of relying on imported resources.
- PROVEN IN AK: Renewable energy is already proven to be economic and cost-effective in Alaska, with much of Kodiak, the Kenai Peninsula and Southeast Alaska relying on renewable hydroelectric power.
- WILL NEED TO IMPORT: The Alaska Department of Natural Resources is projecting that within the next 5 to 8 years, the supply of natural gas in Cook Inlet will not be sufficient for in-state energy needs. Without bringing on new sources of energy, Alaska will likely resort to importing liquified natural gas to meet its energy needs.
- COST DECLINING: The cost of renewable energy has been declining rapidly, and with new federal incentives now coming online, it is projected that renewable energy will offer lower energy costs for consumers than new fossil fuel projects will.
- EXPORT REVENUE: Alaska's full renewable energy potential far exceeds Alaska's in-state energy needs. Alaska could become a global leader by exporting its surplus renewable energy, bringing a significant new revenue stream into Alaska.
- DESTINATION FOR BUSINESS: Alaska could become a destination for industries and businesses that depend on abundant renewable energy to supply their major energy needs or make their products more competitive.
- GASLINE WON'T HAPPEN: Projects like a smaller in-state natural gas pipeline have been discussed for decades but, even in the best case, will take far too long to develop, take more state tax dollars and be too expensive to secure Alaska's energy needs.

For each, please tell me if you find that statement very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing, or not at all convincing as a reason to transition to renewable energy sources in Alaska.

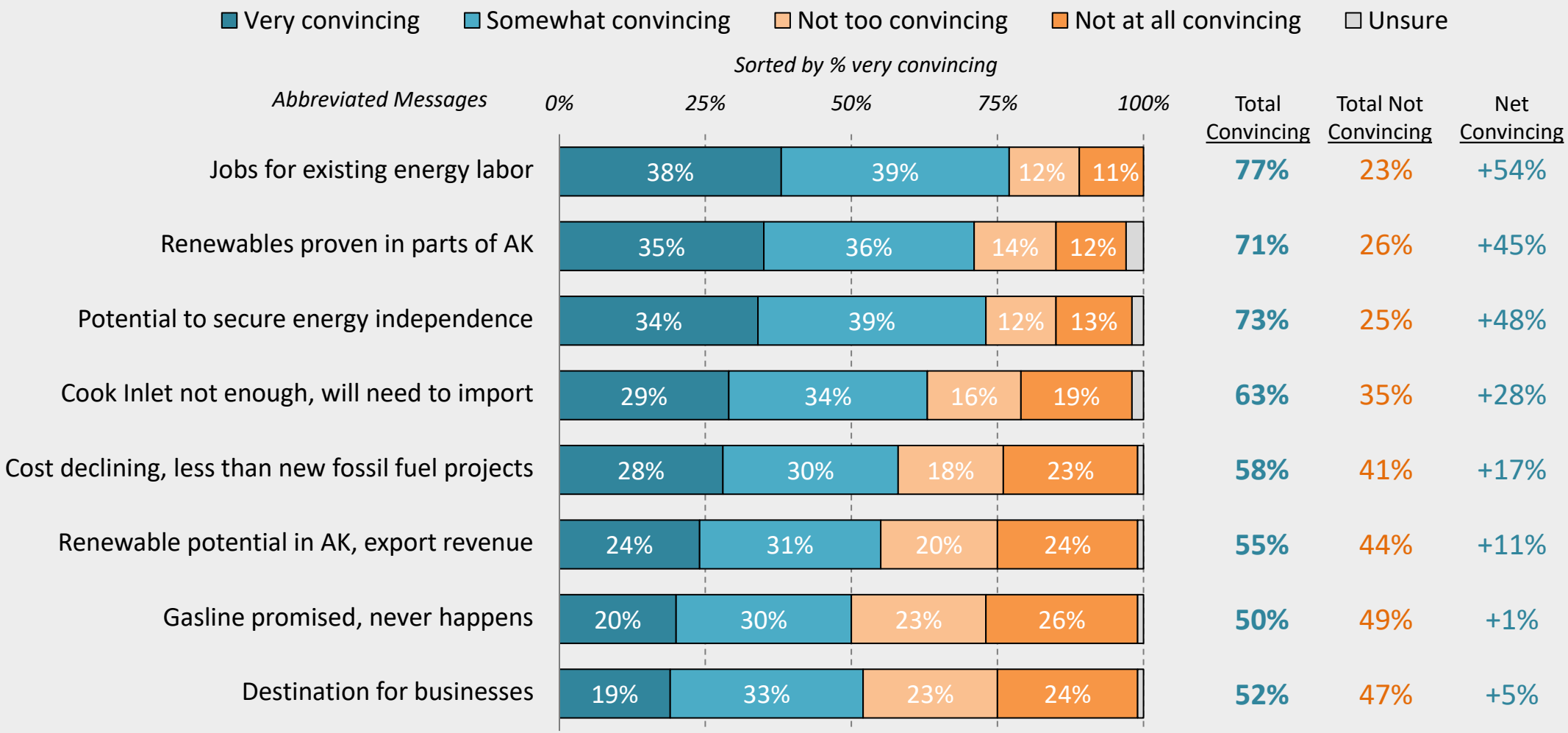
Messages opposed to transitioning to renewables

- UTILITY UPGRADES & COST: Transitioning Alaska to renewable sources of energy would require utility companies to make costly upgrades to the electrical grid. These costs could be passed on to consumers in the form of higher energy costs.
- LACK STORAGE: Without a cheap and abundant storage technology, renewables just aren't ready to provide the energy security Alaska needs.
- NOT RELIABLE IN AK CLIMATE: Renewable energy has not been tested at scale and cannot be relied on for uninterrupted power in Alaska's harsh climate.
- NO BETTER FOR ENVIRONMENT: The environmental impacts associated with mining materials for renewable energy infrastructure such as batteries, make these sources no better for the environment than fossil fuels.
- HIGHER COSTS, SUBSIDIZED: Everywhere it's been tried, renewable energy has not been able to deliver lower cost power to consumers without government subsidies.
- DISRUPTS WILDLIFE & VIEWS: Wind and solar farms need to span many square miles to supply the electricity needed for large communities, resulting in scenic views being obstructed and impacts to wildlife migration and habitat.
- UNECONOMIC, FIRE ISLAND: Renewable energy has proven to be uneconomic and more costly to consumers. Just look at the Fire Island Wind Farm in Anchorage where customers pay a premium for the small amounts of power it generates.
- MANDATES: Alaska will transition to renewable sources when the market demands it. Mandates that force businesses and electrical utilities to transition to renewable sources of energy before these energy methods are ready for market is not the right approach.

For each, please tell me if you find that statement very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing, or not at all convincing as a reason not to transition to renewable energy sources in Alaska.

Messaging on transitioning to renewables

Messages around *jobs*, *examples of how renewables have already worked in Alaska*, and the *potential to secure sustainable energy independence in Alaska* are the most persuasive supporting messages. In addition to high levels reporting these as "very persuasive", sizable percentages (36-39%) also report these as "somewhat persuasive".



DITTMAN

For each, please tell me if you find that statement very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing, or not at all convincing as a reason to transition to renewable energy sources in Alaska.