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To: Interested Parties
From: Paul Harstad and Chris Keating, *Harstad Strategic Research, Inc.*
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Re: Voter Opinion on Global Warming in Montana

MONTANA VOTERS TAKE GLOBAL WARMING SERIOUSLY AND FAVOR A CARBON CAP AND TRADE PROPOSAL TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS

HARSTAD STRATEGIC RESEARCH conducted a telephone survey of 504 Montana voters from February 23 to 27, 2007. The margin of error associated with a sample of this type is plus-or-minus 4.4% at the 95% confidence level.

The survey shows that clear majorities of Montanans side with those who take the global warming problem seriously.

- A majority of Montana voters consider global warming to be a serious problem. Fully, 56% of voters say that global warming is a *very* (35%) or *fairly* (21%) *serious* problem. Another 27% consider it *just somewhat serious*, while only 15% dismiss it as *not serious at all*.
- Nearly two-thirds of Montana voters favor a carbon emissions cap and trade proposal to reduce carbon emissions in the United States. When voters hear a detailed description of the carbon emissions cap and trade proposal, a 63% majority favor the proposal versus 26% who oppose it. The description of the carbon cap and trade proposal is as follows:

The US Government would require reductions of carbon emissions by placing a mandatory limit, called a carbon cap, on carbon emissions from large industrial sources such as power plants, refineries, and large manufacturers. It would also create a market for those carbon reductions by allowing anyone who can reduce emissions - big factories or small businesses and farmers -- to sell emissions credits into that market. A company could combine its own emission reductions, plus those it bought from others, to meet its overall obligation. That way everyone would have an incentive to find ways to cut carbon emissions.

- Support for this carbon cap and trade proposal is broad based. It includes an overwhelming majority of Democrats (75% favor the proposal) and clear majorities of Independents (60% favor the proposal) and Republicans (56% favor the proposal). Support for the proposal is equally high among voters in urban and rural counties (63% and 62% respectively).

When it comes to the issue of climate change or global warming, pluralities of Montana voters side with activists on the issue.

- Montana voters identify global warming as the number one environmental problem. When asked to volunteer the top environmental problem or issue today, 35% of Montanans say *global warming / carbon emissions*. This focus on climate change exceeds the priority given to other environmental problems like *air pollution* (cited by 23%) or *water pollution* (cited by 22%) that have been recognized by the public for more than thirty years.
- By 46% to 37%, Montana voters attribute global warming more to *human activity such as burning fossil fuels* rather than to *the normal cycles in the earth's environment*.
- When it comes to global warming, 42% of voters say the greater risk is *not going far enough with environmental protections and suffering serious consequences from global warming such as drought, more intense forest fires and economic disruptions*, compared to 38% who say the greater risk is *going too far with environmental regulations that might hurt Montana's coal industry*.