

**To: Chesapeake Climate Action Network**

**From: Steve Raabe, President  
OpinionWorks, LLC**

**Date: March 10, 2015**

**Subject: Maryland Voter Poll on BGE Exelon/Pepco Merger**

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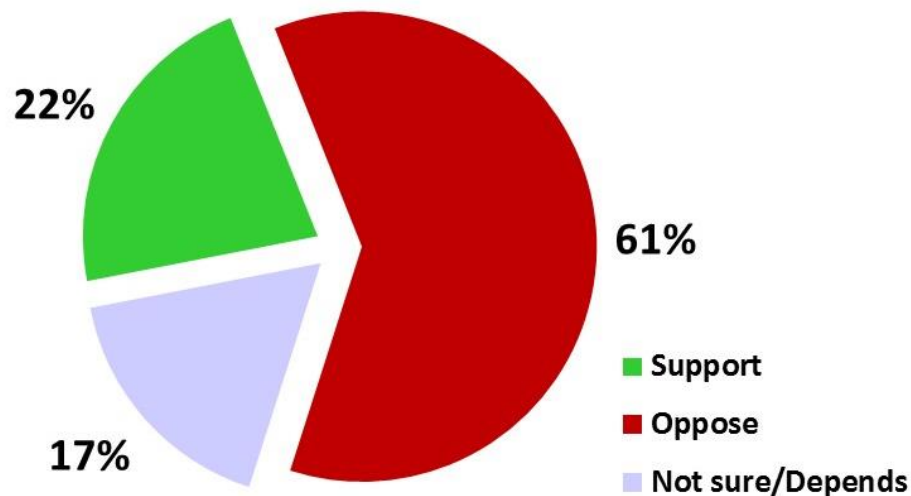
The Chesapeake Climate Action Network commissioned a statewide voter poll question to understand attitudes about the proposed BGE Exelon merger with Pepco.

This telephone poll of 594 randomly-selected Maryland registered voters was conducted by telephone February 26-March 8, 2015, using trained and supervised live interviewers. The poll is balanced to reflect the geographic, political, and demographic makeup of the statewide electorate. The findings have a potential sampling error of no more than  $\pm 4.0$  percent at the 95% confidence level.

#### **Large Voter Opposition to the Proposed Merger**

This poll identifies profound skepticism in the public about this proposed merger, with 61% opposing it compared to only 22% in support. In the question, voters were offered both support and opposition arguments and then asked for their own opinion.

### **Voter Attitudes about BGE Exelon/Pepco Merger**



“Maryland's largest electric utility, BGE Exelon, wants to purchase the state's second largest utility Pepco. The resulting combined utility would cover 85% of the state's ratepayers. The utilities say that the merger would create cost savings that would benefit customers. The Maryland Energy Administration, representing the state government, is opposed to the merger, saying it would create a large monopoly that would be costly for consumers. Do you support or oppose the proposed merger between Pepco and BGE Exelon?”

Voter opposition to the merger is widespread, crossing all subgroup lines within the electorate.

**Subgroup Attitudes about Proposed Merger**

<b>Voter Group</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
<b>All Voters</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>61%</b>
Men	25%	58%
Women	19%	64%
Whites	20%	67%
African-Americans	23%	59%
All Others	27%	52%
Baltimore City	17%	73%
Baltimore County	31%	59%
Montgomery County	27%	52%
Prince George's County	20%	60%
Central Maryland (10 metropolitan jurisdictions)	22%	63%
Rural Counties (14 counties in Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, Eastern Shore)	22%	50%
Democrats	21%	63%
Republicans	25%	60%
Independents	19%	58%

**How This Poll Was Conducted**

OpinionWorks interviewed 594 randomly-selected registered voters across Maryland by telephone February 26–March 8, 2015. The interviews were conducted by trained and supervised live interviewers who are skilled in opinion research best practices.

The poll has a potential sampling error of no more than  $\pm 4.0\%$  at a 95% confidence level, meaning that at least 95% of the time the survey results would differ by no more than that margin if every registered voter in Maryland had been interviewed.

Interviewees were drawn randomly from the database of registered voters, supplied by the State Board of Elections and matched with landline and cellular telephone numbers by a commercial vendor. The sample was balanced geographically and by political party during interviewing, and respondents were screened to ensure that only registered voters were interviewed. Weights were applied to bring the voter sample into compliance with the demographic breakdown of the registered voter population.

**Brief Background on OpinionWorks**

OpinionWorks conducts frequent opinion studies at the state and local level across the country. We are the polling organization for *The Baltimore Sun* newspaper in Maryland, and have polled for numerous other media throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. We have conducted statewide surveys for the court systems in Florida and Utah; for the health departments in West Virginia and the District of Columbia; for public universities in New York, Maryland, and Utah; and for conservation agencies and advocates in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware. In addition to these public surveys, we assess donor and customer relationships for a variety of non-profit and for-profit entities nationally.