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### **Montana Voter Survey Indicates Broad Support for Montana Coal, Increased Production**

(Helena, Mont.)—A recent survey reveals that Montanans in all parts of the state recognize and support the economic benefits and the opportunities that coal provides the state. The survey found that:

- 69% of voters statewide have a favorable impression of the coal industry.
- 77% believe the Montana coal industry is good for the state because of the jobs, tax revenue and affordable energy it provides.
- 75% of all Montanans support increased coal production for export to enhance the economic stability of Montana into the future.

“This survey shows that the vast majority of Montanans recognize the benefit all state residents receive from coal production.” said David Flaherty, CEO of Magellan Strategies which conducted the poll. “The voters of Montana acknowledge and support the idea that when Montana coal is mined and sold to the world marketplace, the state benefits tremendously

Of particular note are the results of the survey by region. Most Montanans do not live near coal mining operations, but they do recognize the benefit of increased coal production and the opportunity provided by the exporting of Montana coal. 72% of survey participants from the northwestern part of the state and 65% from the southwestern areas favored increase production of Montana coal for exporting. “Citizens in Missoula and Butte may not live near a coal mine or know anyone that works in the industry, but they recognize the great benefit that coal production provides our state.” said Chuck Denowh, spokesmen for Count on Coal Montana.

Montana coal operations pay approximately \$125 million each year the state of Montana. These funds are used for everything from schools to roads to the state employee retirement system. “We have a huge economic opportunity here and Montana citizens overwhelmingly support taking advantage of it.” Denowh added. “The global demand for Montana coal is increasing and we need to seize this opportunity”

*Count on Coal Montana is a campaign to make Montanans aware of the benefits of the abundant coal resources in our state. Founded by organizations and companies that recognize the value of coal to Montana. Count on Coal Montana includes concerned Montanans who are standing up for Montana coal and the benefits it provides our state. Visit [www.countoncoalmontana.org](http://www.countoncoalmontana.org) for more information.*

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