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TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: CHRIS WILSON, ASHLEE RICH STEPHENSON
SUBJECT: VOTERS SUPPORT CHANGES TO THE RFS AND LOWERING RINS PRICES
DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2018

The following memorandum illustrates key findings from two studies conducted among 2018 likely voters in Pennsylvania and Iowa, regarding the Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) element of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). The Pennsylvania study was fielded among n=500 likely voters from February 20-21, 2018 and the margin of error is $\pm 4.4\%$. The Iowa study was fielded among n=401 likely voters from February 21-22, 2018 and the margin of error is $\pm 4.9\%$.

In both states, this research reports that likely voters unsurprisingly support the generic and static description of the current Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) regulations; however, after hearing a brief explanation of Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) and their ramifications on blue collar workers, voters in Iowa and Pennsylvania showed significant movement toward supporting modifications of the RFS to account for RINs reform. In addition, a plurality of voters in both states (a majority in Iowa), across party breaks, would have a significantly more favorable impression of President Trump if he were to support and advance “win-win” reforms to the RFS that would benefit blue collar workers while still protecting corn farmers.

Initial Renewable Fuel Standard Support

Initially and unsurprisingly, a strong majority of likely voters in Iowa (70%) and a plurality of likely voters in Pennsylvania (43%) support the Renewable Fuel Standard that requires a certain amount of the fuel to come from ethanol, bio-diesel, and other renewable resources that aren’t fossil fuels.

As you may know, there is currently a Renewable Fuel Standard (R.F.S) that requires a certain amount of the fuel you use every day, from fueling your car to heating your home, to come from ethanol, bio-diesel and other renewable resources that aren’t fossil fuels and aren’t made in Pennsylvania.

	Iowa	Pennsylvania
Support	70%	43%
Oppose	16%	34%



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Informed Renewable Fuel Standard Support

After hearing additional information regarding the effect that Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs) are having on small refiners and blue-collar manufacturing jobs across the country, likely voters in both Pennsylvania and Iowa showed considerable support for reform to the Renewable Fuel Standard to reduce the burden it has created.

Iowa

After hearing more information, do you support or oppose reforming the current Renewable Fuel Standard to reduce the cost of Renewable Identification Numbers on small refineries who employ blue collar workers?

Pennsylvania

After hearing more information, do you support or oppose changes to the current Renewable Fuel Standard requirements?

	Iowa	Pennsylvania
Support	51%	58%
Oppose	19%	17%

Increasing President Trump's Favorables

If President Trump were to support small modifications the Renewal Fuel Standards, a majority of likely voters in Iowa (60%) and a plurality of likely voters in Pennsylvania (46%) say they would have a more favorable impression of him. Across party breaks, a majority of Republicans (68%), Independents (59%), and Democrats (52%) in Iowa and a majority of Republicans (53%) would have a more favorable impression. A plurality of Independents (45%) and Democrats (40%) in Pennsylvania would have a more favorable impression of the President if he modified the Renewable Fuel Standard.

Iowa

There is currently an effort underway to encourage President Trump and the federal government to small adjustments to the Renewable Fuel Standards that some say are killing blue collar manufacturing jobs across the country. Would you have a more or less favorable impression of President Trump if he modified the Renewable Fuel Standard in a way that is both good for Iowa farmers and blue collar refinery jobs?

Pennsylvania

There is currently an effort underway to encourage President Trump and the federal government to adjust the Renewable Identification Numbers aspect of the Renewable Fuel Standard subsidy that some say are killing blue collar manufacturing jobs right here in Pennsylvania and across the country. Would you have a more favorable impression of President Trump if he modified the Renewable Identification Numbers component of the Renewable Fuel Standard?

	Iowa	Pennsylvania
More Favorable	60%	46%
More Unfavorable	20%	24%

Research Design

WPA Intelligence conducted a study of likely voters in Pennsylvania and Iowa. WPAi selected a random sample of likely voters from the Pennsylvania and Iowa voter files using Proportionate Probability Sampling (PPS). The sample for these surveys were stratified based on geography, age, ethnicity, and gender. This methodology allows us to avoid post-survey “weighting” which can reduce the reliability of survey results. WPAi conducted 500 live telephone interviews in Pennsylvania from February 20 – 21, 2018 and 401 interviews in Iowa from February 21 – 22, 2018. The margin of error in Pennsylvania is $\pm 4.4\%$ and $\pm 4.9\%$ in Iowa.

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