

KEYSTONE XL:

Green group poll shows Obama voters would feel 'betrayed' by pipeline approval

Jennifer Yachnin / E&E reporter Wednesday, March 20, 2013

The Center for Biological Diversity is touting a survey today finding that voters who backed President Obama's re-election would feel "betrayed" if his administration permits the proposed Keystone XL pipeline to move forward.

The survey conducted by Public Policy Polling also found little support for the proposed 1,700-mile pipeline, as 74 percent of the 1,122 voters polled nationwide said the project is not in the "best interest" of the nation and 68 percent said they disapproved of the project. The poll, taken March 15 to 17, had a 2.9-point margin of error.

"President Obama promised to steer America toward a safer, saner energy policy that doesn't sacrifice our climate and wildlife for oil company profits," CBD Executive Director Kierán Suckling said in a statement. "It's clear that most Obama voters believe this promise requires the president to reject the Keystone pipeline."

Among the poll's 536 voters who supported Obama in 2012, 61 percent said they would feel either "disappointed" or "betrayed" if the administration granted permits for the project.

Among all those polled, 53 percent opposed congressional action on the pipeline.

"Americans take a pretty dim view of Congress, and most don't want it anywhere near the Keystone project," CBD Field Director Jerry Karnas said.