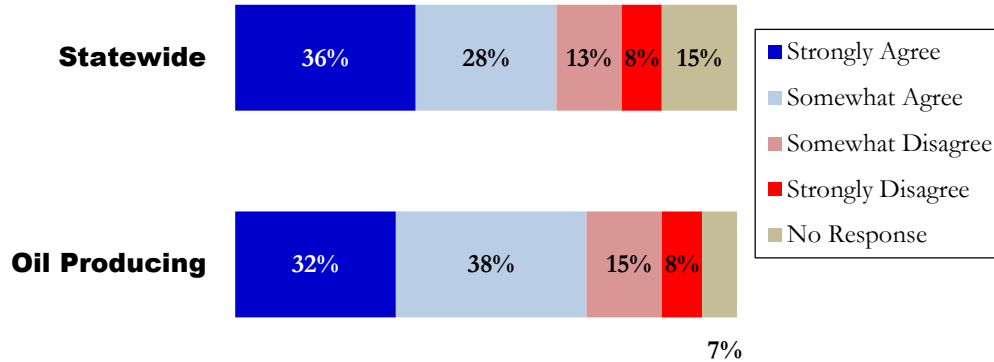# 2015 Public Opinion Survey
Dakota Resource Council and Dacotah Chapter of Sierra Club

Flaring

The majority of respondents (statewide, 64%; oil counties, 70%) believe the oil industry flares off more natural gas than it should while about one-fifth (statewide, 21%; oil counties, 23%) disagree (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Oil Industry Flares off more Natural Gas than Necessary

Withholding Drilling Permits

Over half of respondents (statewide, 58%; oil counties, 55%) support withholding oil drilling permits as a tactic which should be used until oil companies develop the technology to capture and market the natural gas which is now flared. Conversely, twenty-eight percent of respondents statewide and thirty-seven percent in the oil producing region do not support this strategy (Figure 21).

Figure 2. Withholding oil drilling permits for new wells until oil companies put in place the means to capture and take to market natural gas that they otherwise would burn off through flaring.
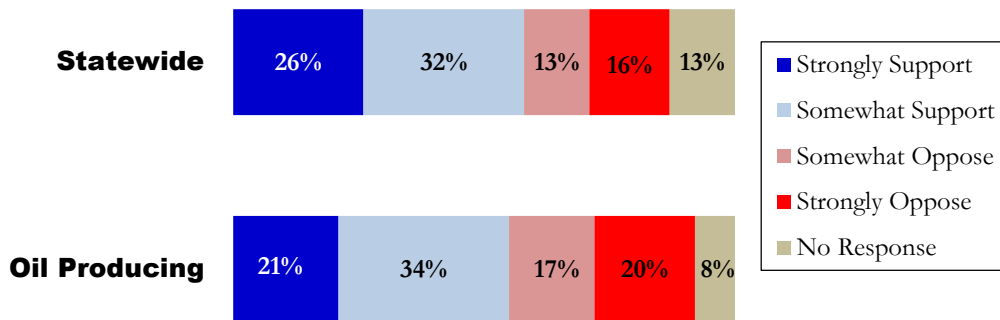
2015 Public Opinion Survey
Dakota Resource Council and Dacotah Chapter of Sierra Club

The poll was commissioned by the Dakota Resource Council and the Dacotah Chapter of Sierra Club and conducted by the Social Science Research Institute of the University of North Dakota.

Methodology Overview
The results of this survey are based on telephone interviews of 901 randomly selected adults age 18 or older in North Dakota. The interviews were conducted from February 18 through March 6, 2015.   In order to provide a probability-based sample representative of all such individuals, a dual-frame random digit dial (RDD) sampling methodology was used, whereby both landline and cellular telephone numbers were included in the sample. Oversampling was conducted in the oil producing counties to provide more reliable estimates from adults living in the oil production area. The statewide sample yields an error margin of +/- 5.2%, while the oil producing sample yields an error margin of +/- 4.9%.