



**PUBLIC OPINION ON GREAT LAKES
ENVIRONMENTAL & ENERGY
POLICY: A CANADA-U.S.
COMPARISON**



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PUBLIC OPINION
MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

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Do we need the 57th study of public opinion in the Great Lakes Basin?

- Yes—and unique features of the GLPRN work...
- Broad scope of questions, including emerging energy sources
- Builds on much earlier work and allows some comparison with earlier findings
- Opportunity to set foundation for longitudinal work
- Opportunity to pioneer comparison of *public* and *elite* opinion
- Close adherence to boundaries of the Great Lakes Basin—versus broader Region (or American-centric)



A Word About Methods

- Telephone survey conducted by Muhlenberg Institute of Public Opinion: November-December 2013
- Included 1,247 residents within the Basin
 - Random digit dialing, with both landlines and cell phones
 - Overall margin of error of 3 percent, calculated at a 95% confidence level
 - Weighted sample by percentage of total Basin population within portion of state/provinces within the Basin
 - Ontario: 408
 - Michigan: 267
 - Illinois: 138....

Preview of Future Attractions

- Comparison with elite opinion: Is there a difference between the views of the citizenry and their elected/appointed leaders?

Michigan via the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS): Special version of twice-yearly survey to lead elected/appointed officials in 1,739 local jurisdictions

Ontario to follow with an upcoming survey of 444 local leaders

General Perceptions about Great Lakes

- Convergence or Divergence in Basin
 - How different are we?
- Perceptions of quality and risk
- Policy preferences and actions
- Role of governments, industry and citizens



Importance and Connection

- How important are the Great Lakes?
 - 66% ‘strongly agree’ that the Great Lakes are a valuable state/provincial ***economic resource***
 - 71% ‘strongly agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’ that the GL have ***significant impact*** on daily life
- Connection to the GL?
 - 98 % have visited at least 1 lake in their lifetime

	Engaged in Activity	Did Not Engage in Activity	Not Sure
Went hunting in Great Lakes Region	11%	89%	<1%
Went Fishing on one or more of the Great Lakes	29%	71%	<1%
Ate fish from one or more of the Great Lakes.	54%	42%	4%
Swam in one or more of the Great Lakes.	40%	60%	<1%
Went to a beach on one or more of the Great Lakes.	54%	46%	<1%
Went boating on one or more of the Great Lakes.	40%	60%	0%

Perceptions of Quality?

- 86% in both countries: quality fair or better than fair
 - Only 9% say 'poor' or 'very poor'
- How compared to past studies (2005 & 2007)?
 - Americans and Canadians think lakes better, but assessment of quality increased more amongst Canadians
- Does this mean that residents think quality is better than 20 years ago?
 - Only 39% 'somewhat or strongly agree' that GL better health today



What are citizens concerned with?

- Three most important environmental concerns today?

ISSUE (Grouped by category)	Rank 1	Total mentions (as rank 1, 2 or 3)
Pollution/Contamination	55%	73%
Asian Carp	8%	21%
Water Levels	5%	16%
Invasive Species	4%	11%
Sewage/Waste	3%	7%
Water Quality/Maintaining Quality	3%	6%
Industrial/Business Waste	2%	6%
Garbage Dumping	2%	6%
Zebra Mussels	2%	5%

GL policy positions?

“Strengthen regulations to reduce the release of pharmaceuticals and other contaminants entering the Great Lakes even if the cost of drugs increase”



“Rebuild sewers to improve Great Lakes water quality, even if it requires an increase in your property taxes”



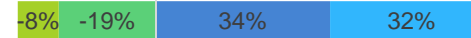
“Increase efforts to improve Great Lakes water quality, even if it requires higher taxes”



“Reduce runoff from farm and the agricultural sectors even if it increases the cost of food”



“Phase out coal-fired power plants to reduce mercury emissions in the Great Lakes Region, even if the cost of electricity increases”



“Prevent new construction on wetlands, even if limits economic development”



“Reduce the rate at which farmland or other natural areas are being paved over, even if it limits local economic development”



“Close the shipping channel near Chicago that may allow Asian carp to enter Lake Michigan, even if this harms the local economy”



“Increase the cost of water for households and businesses to encourage consumers to use less water”



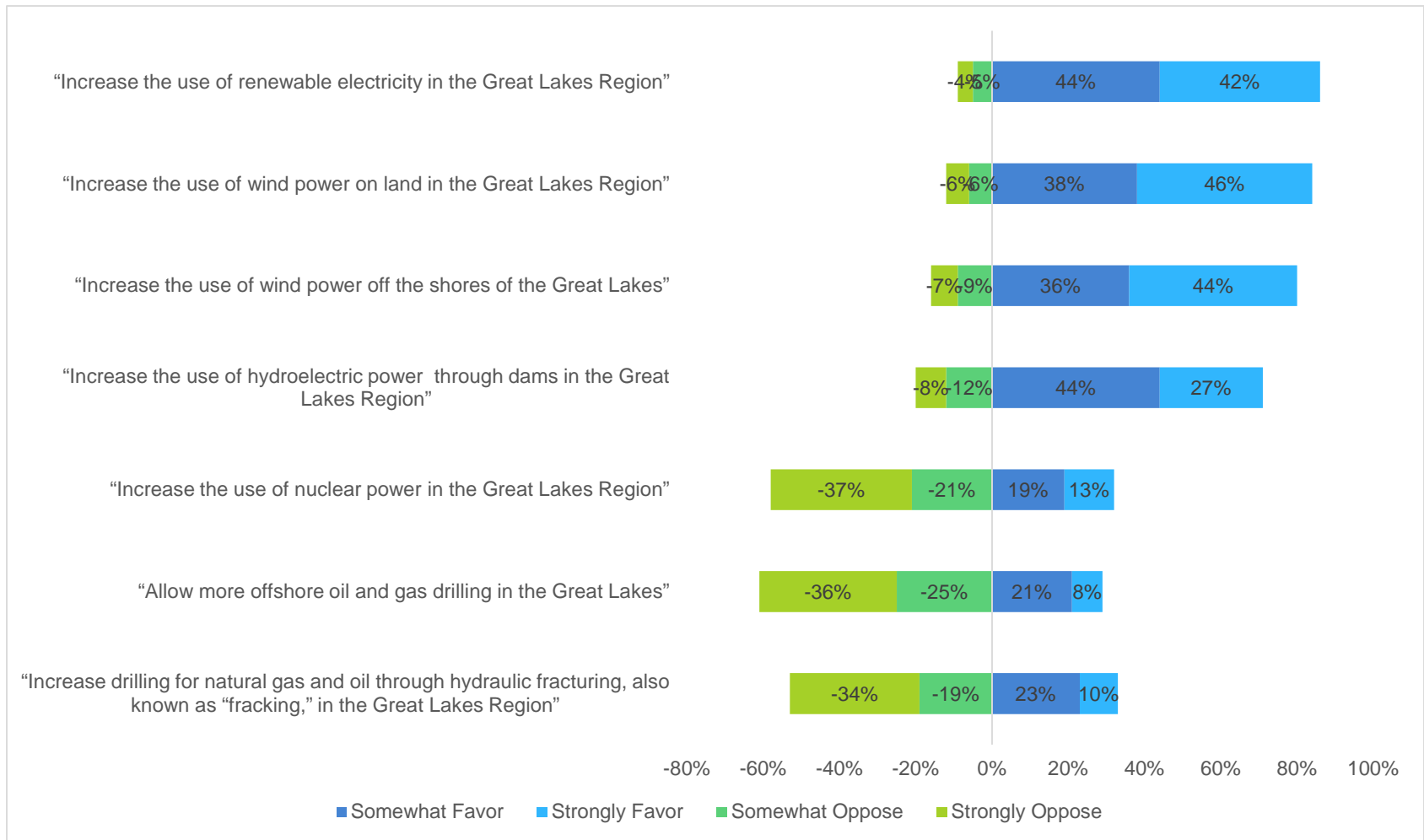
“Enforce laws to reduce water diversion from the Great Lakes, even if it means citizens outside the Great Lakes face water shortages”



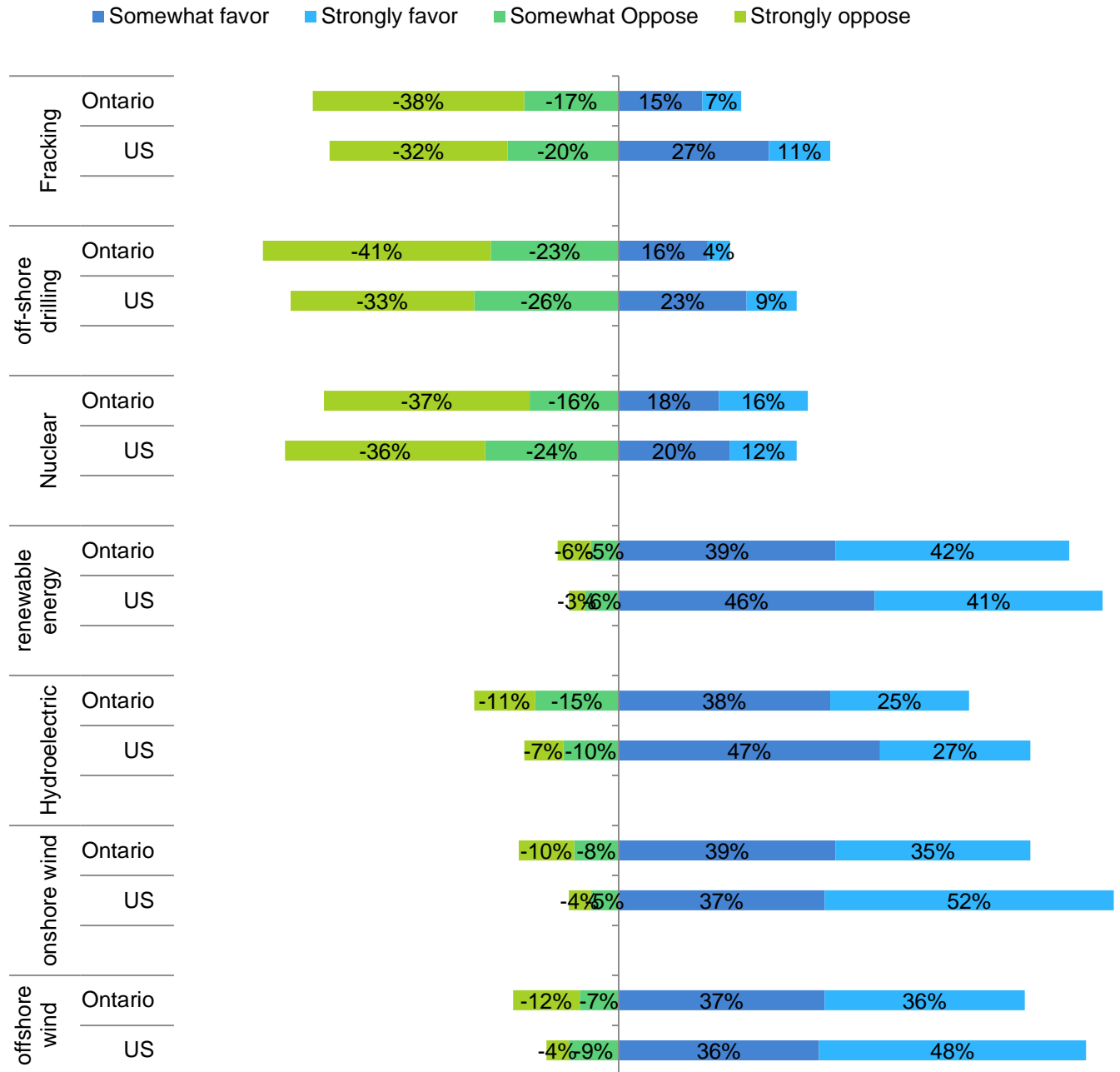
-60% -40% -20% 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

■ Somewhat Support ■ Strongly Support ■ Somewhat Oppose ■ Strongly Oppose

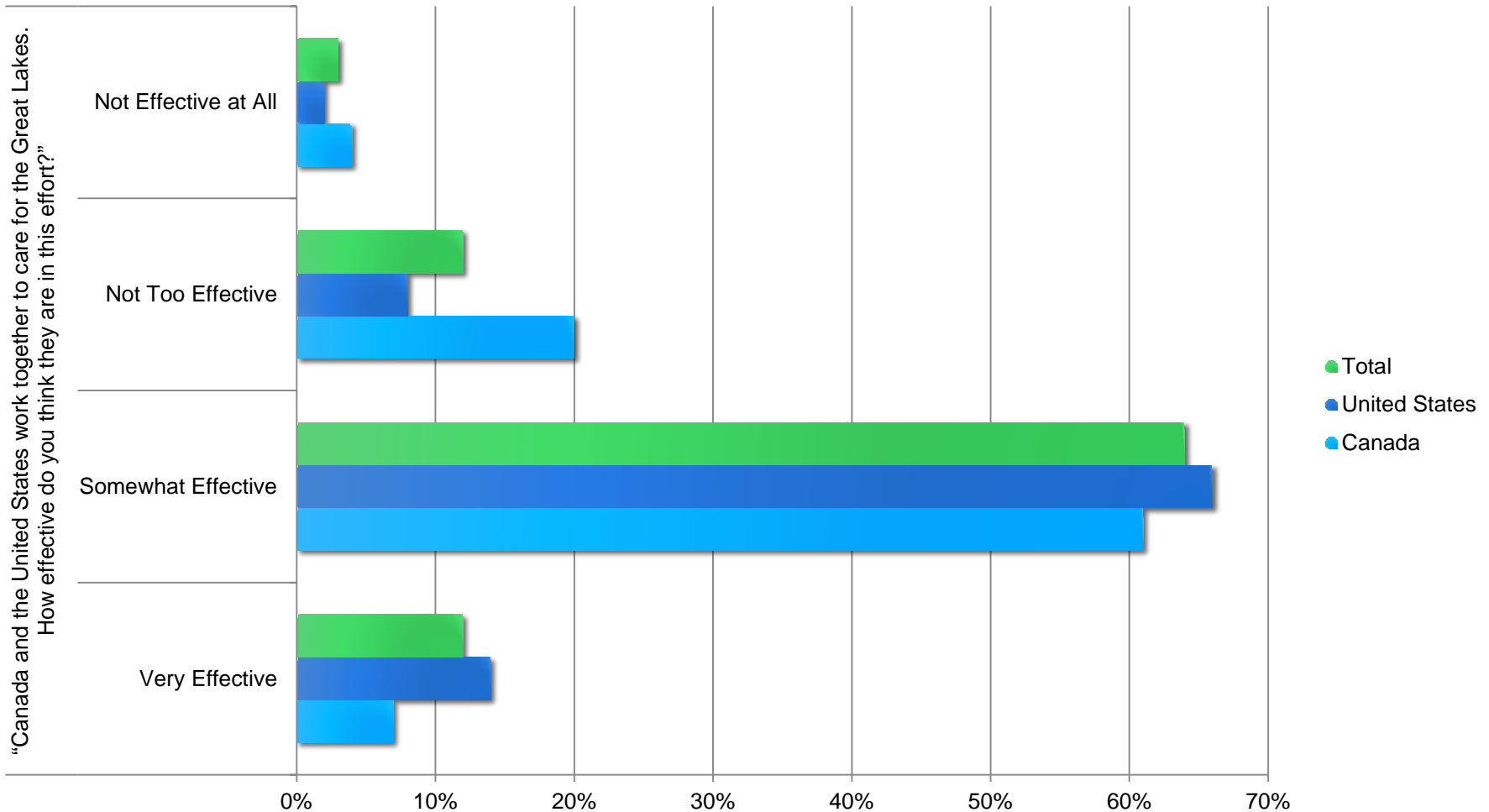
Positions on energy in GL?



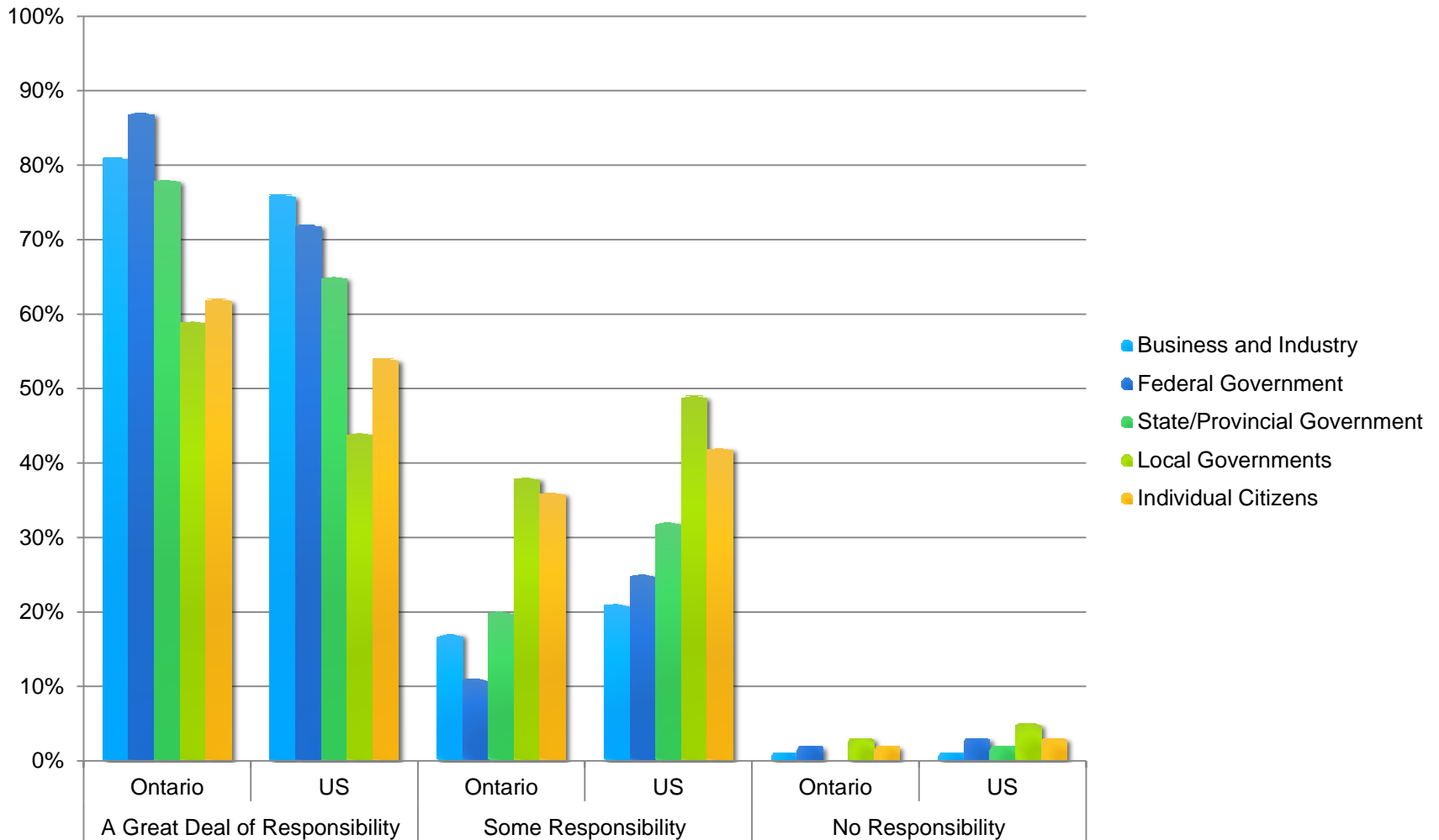
US vs. Canada on energy in GL?



Assessment of government performance

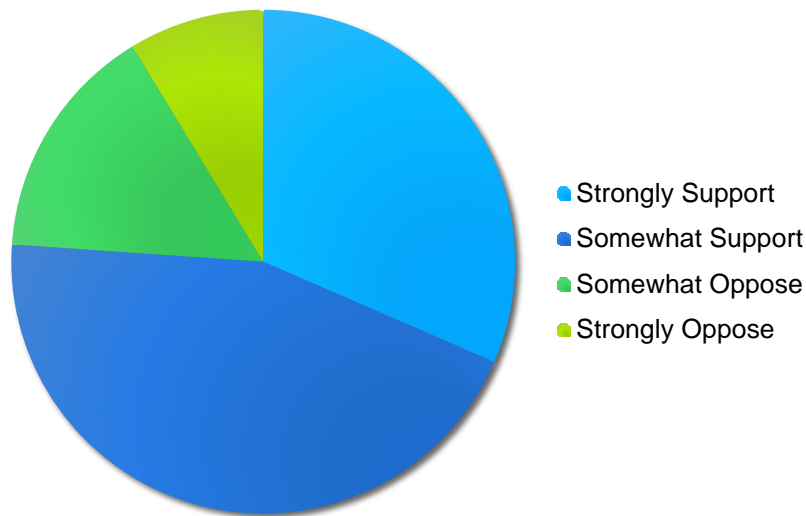


Responsibility to protect



Coordination for action?

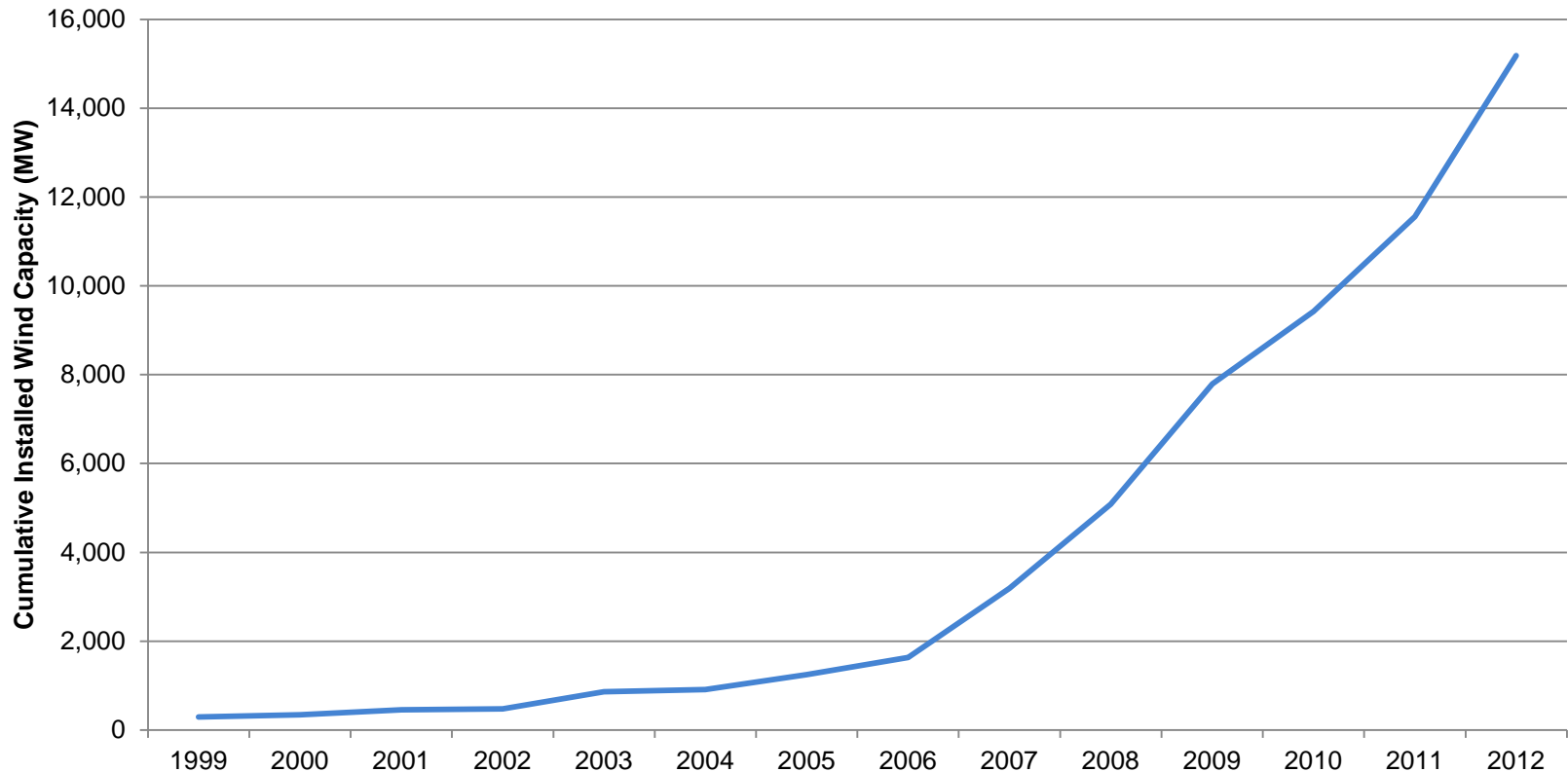
Increase coordination between states and provinces in the Great Lakes even if it requires giving up some of your (state/province's) decision-making power?



• Overall

- US and Canadians don't differ markedly; where difference, not too surprising
- Connected to Lakes and concern for quality
- Contaminants and pollution
- Support for renewables interesting; also daunting for implications for energy needs
- Look to federal government and industry to lead

Great Lakes Region Wind Energy Growth

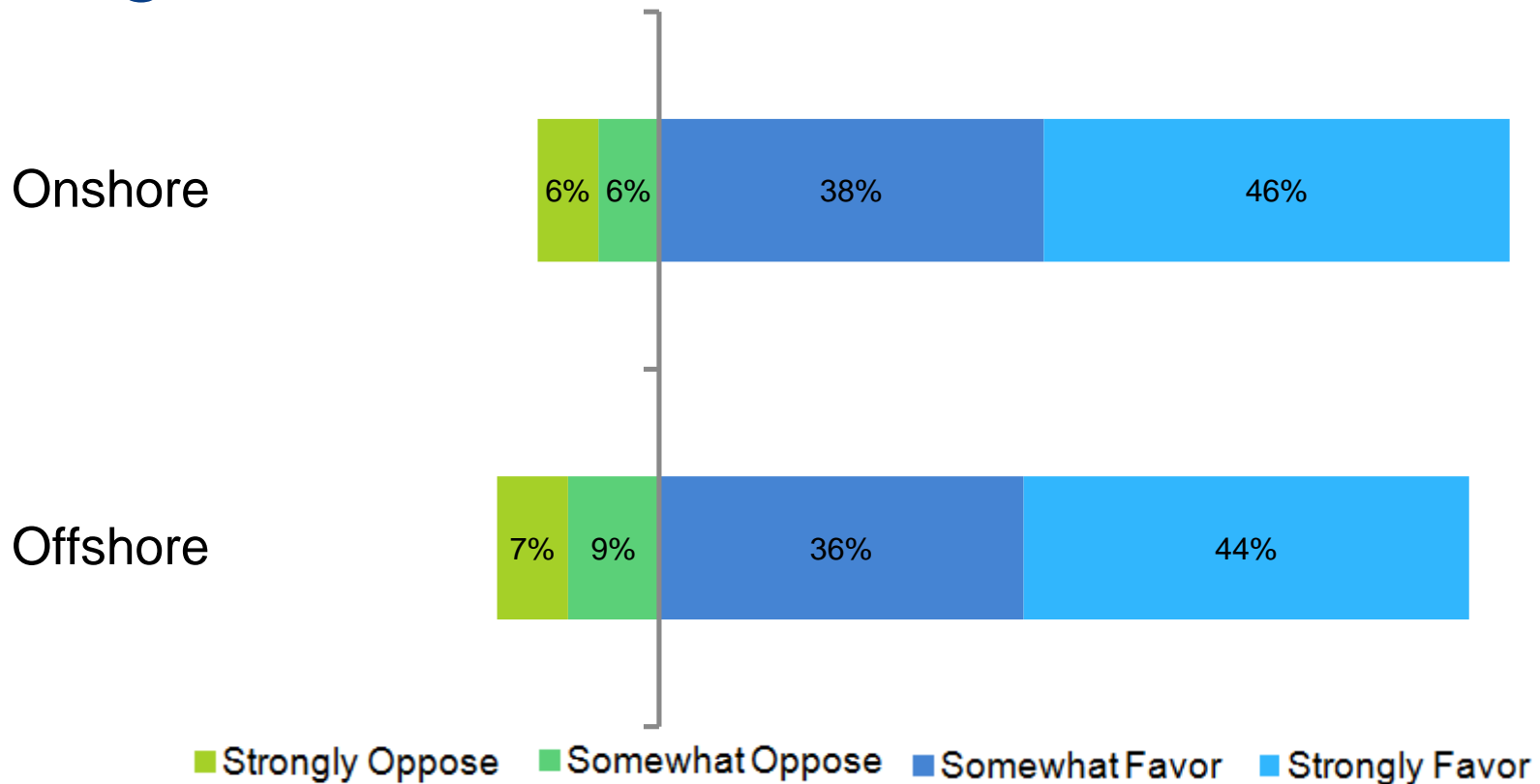


State / Province Overviews

- Renewable energy policy – RPS / FIT
- Treatment of wind
- Wind siting authority



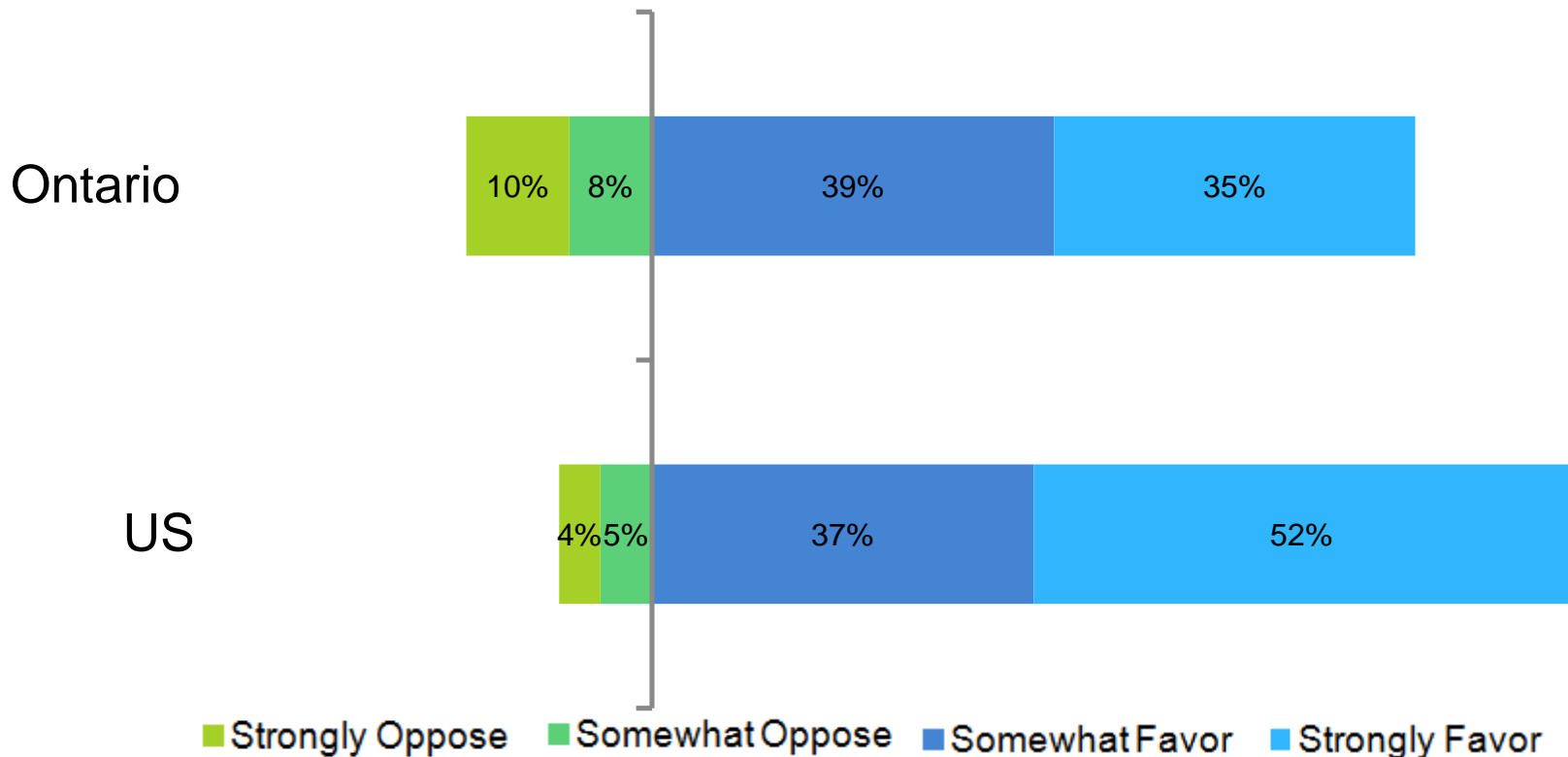
High support for additional wind power in Region



Margin of Error: $\pm 3\%$



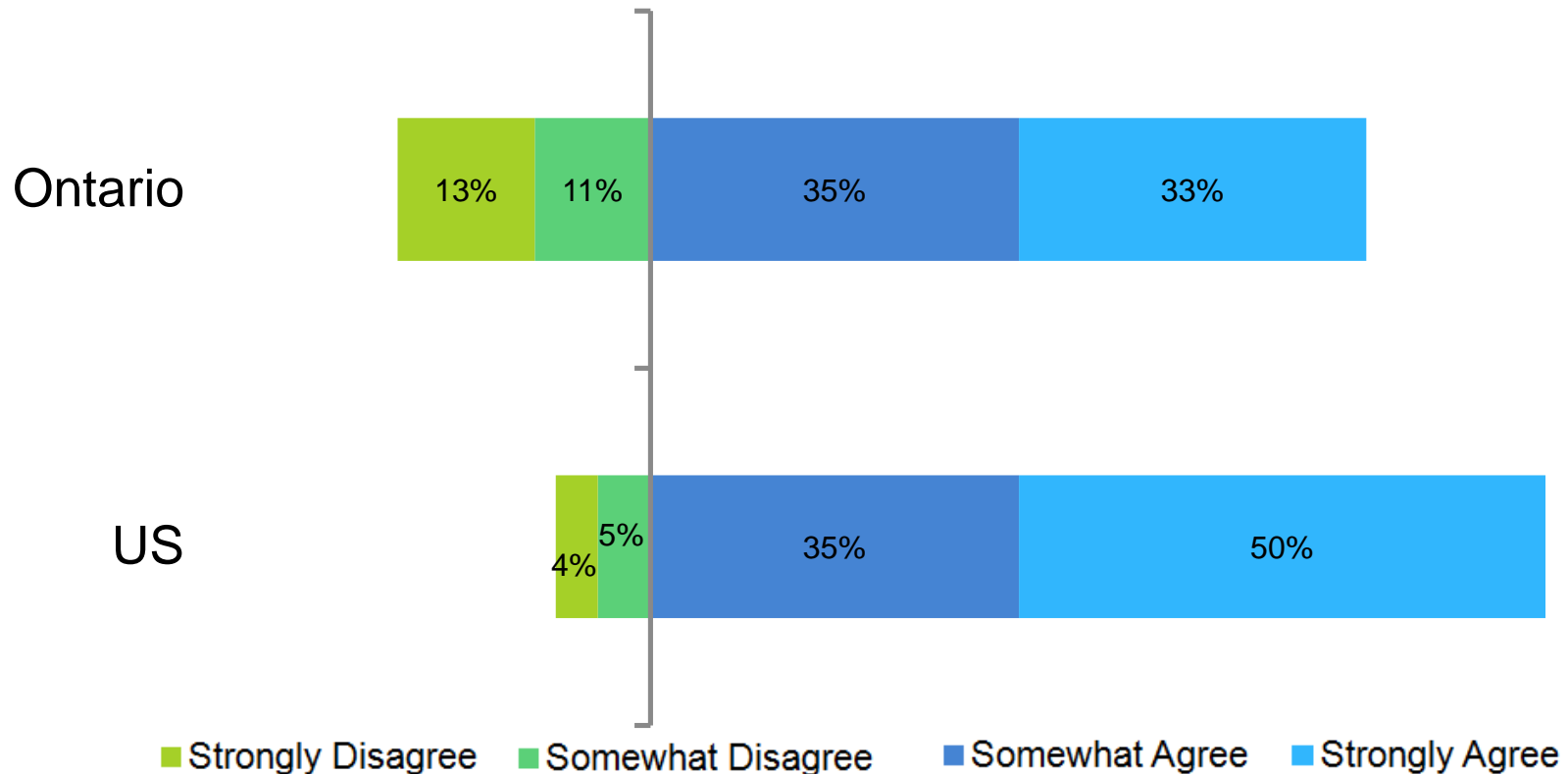
Support for additional onshore wind power



Margin of Error: $\pm 5\%$ for Ontario and $\pm 3.5\%$ for US



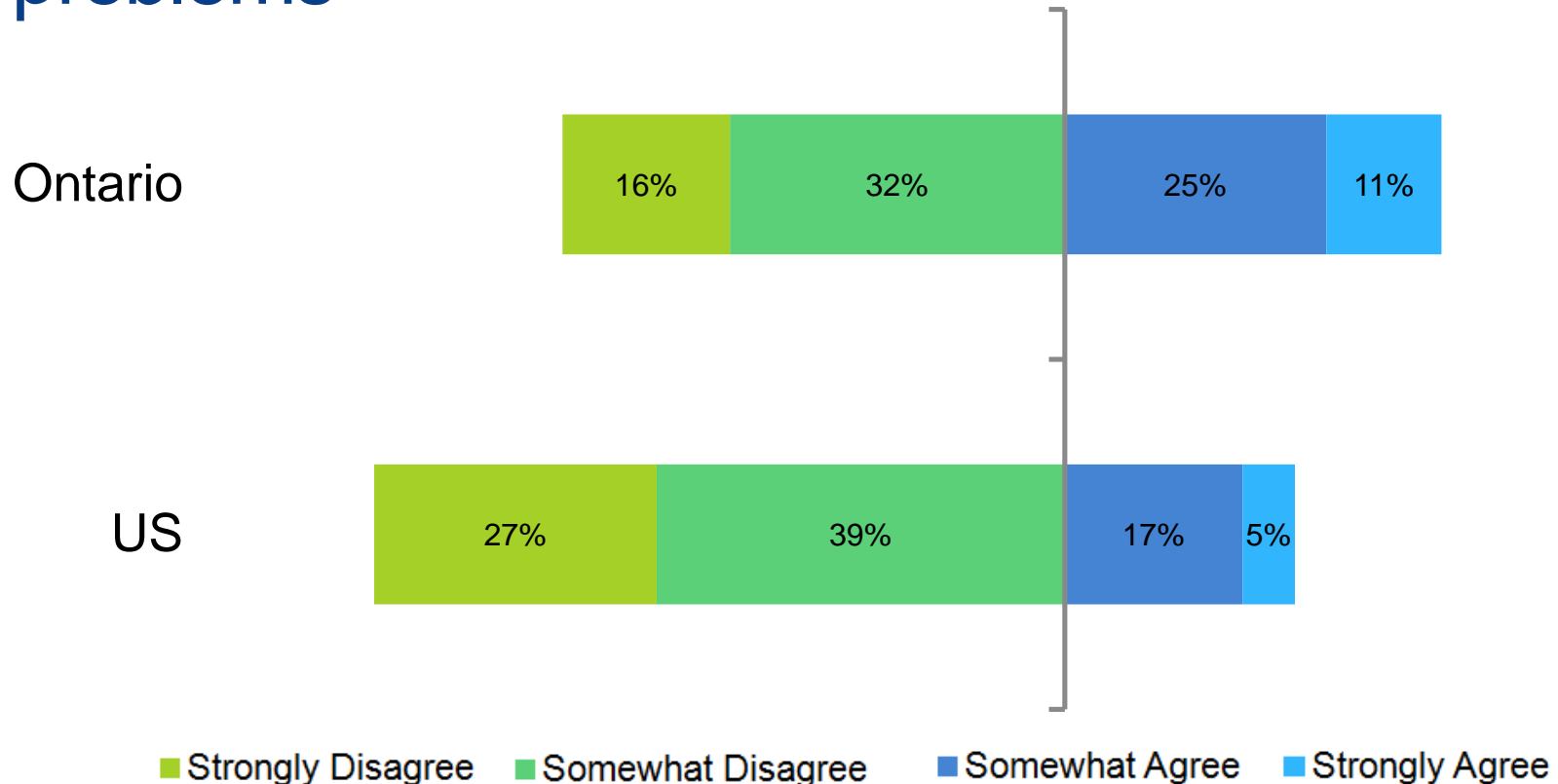
Wind turbines provide economic benefits



Margin of Error: $\pm 7\%$ for Ontario and $\pm 5\%$ for US



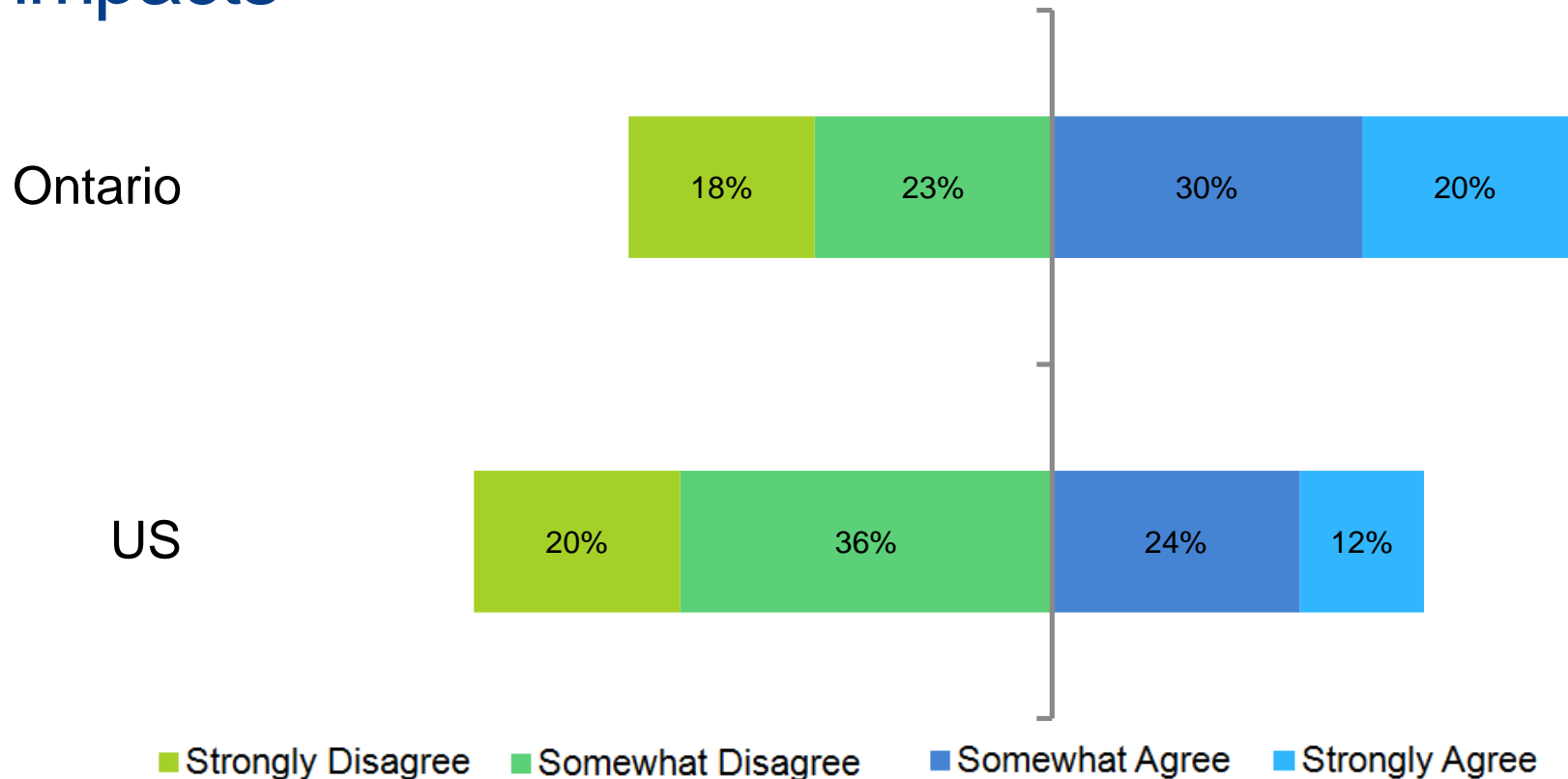
Wind turbines create noise and human health problems



Margin of Error: $\pm 7\%$ for Ontario and $\pm 5\%$ for US



Wind turbines cause visual and property value impacts

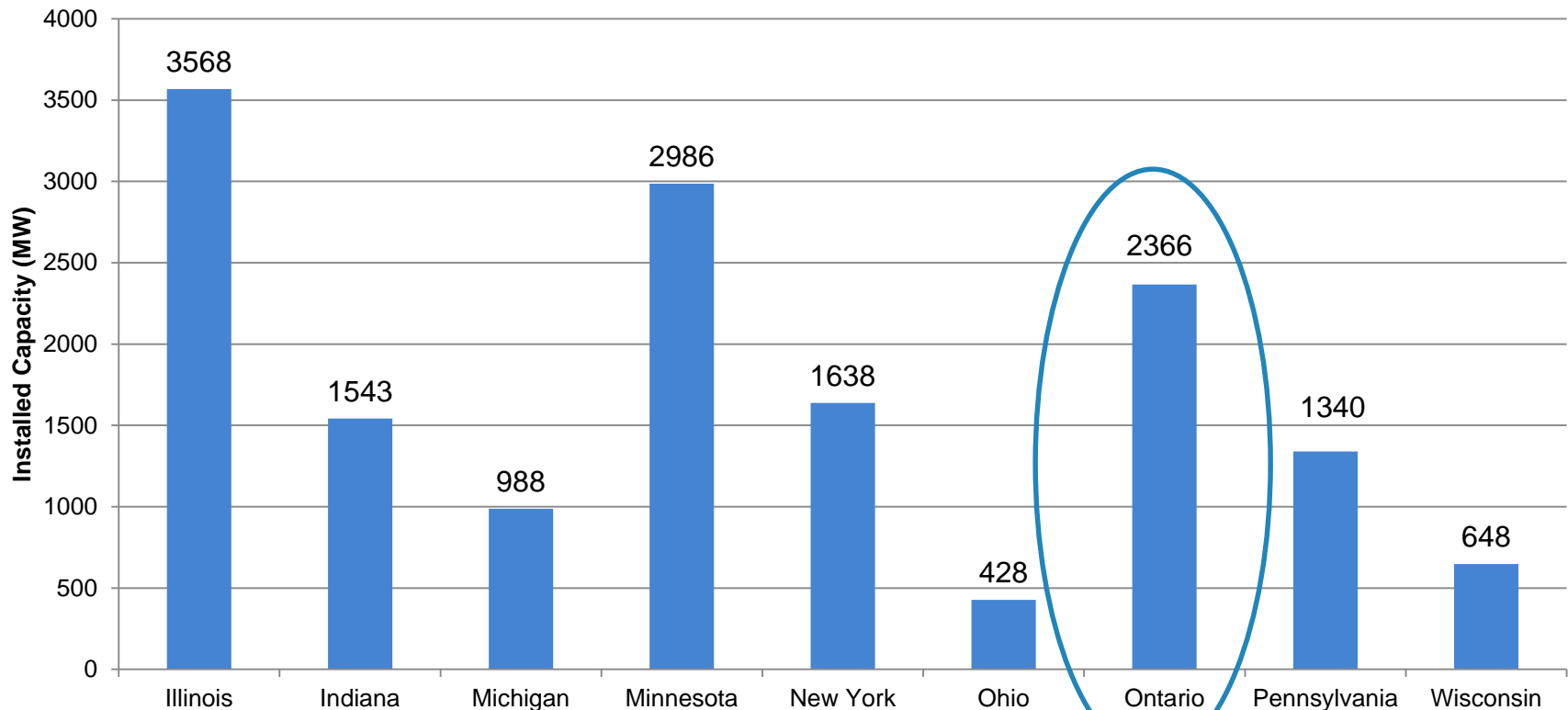


Margin of Error: $\pm 7\%$ for Ontario and $\pm 5\%$ for US

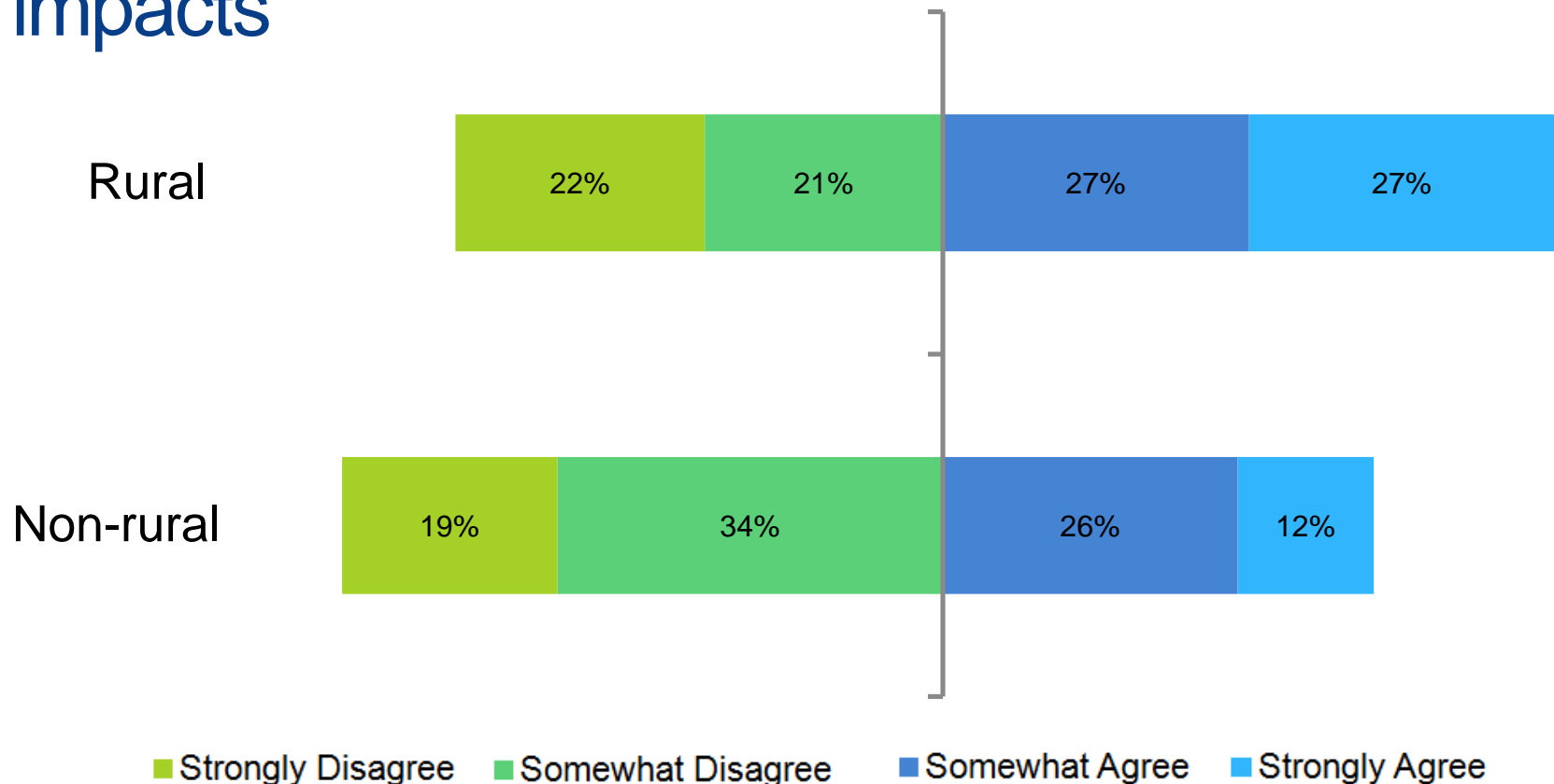


State/Province Comparison

Installed wind energy, end of 2013



Wind turbines cause visual and property value impacts



Margin of Error: $\pm 10\%$ for rural and $\pm 4.5\%$ for non-rural

Other Findings

- Regulation of wind
 - All levels of government should regulate wind
 - Smaller role for federal government
- Mixed public opinion where science is uncertain
 - Property values
 - Bird Migration and weather patterns
 - Rural landscapes

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN THE BASIN

GREAT LAKES
POLICY RESEARCH NETWORK



Public Views on the Emerging Presence of
Fracking in the Great Lakes Region

Hydraulic Fracturing in the Basin

GREAT LAKES
POLICY RESEARCH NETWORK



- Hydraulic Fracturing or “Fracking” has seen considerable expansion within many regions of the Great Lakes Basin.
- Marcellus shale play is prominent in Lake Erie and Ontario basins including major portions of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio.
- Michigan contains large portions of the Antrim shale play.
- The Utica shale play lies beneath significant portions of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and southern Ontario.

Views on Increasing Hydraulic Fracturing U.S-Canada Comparison

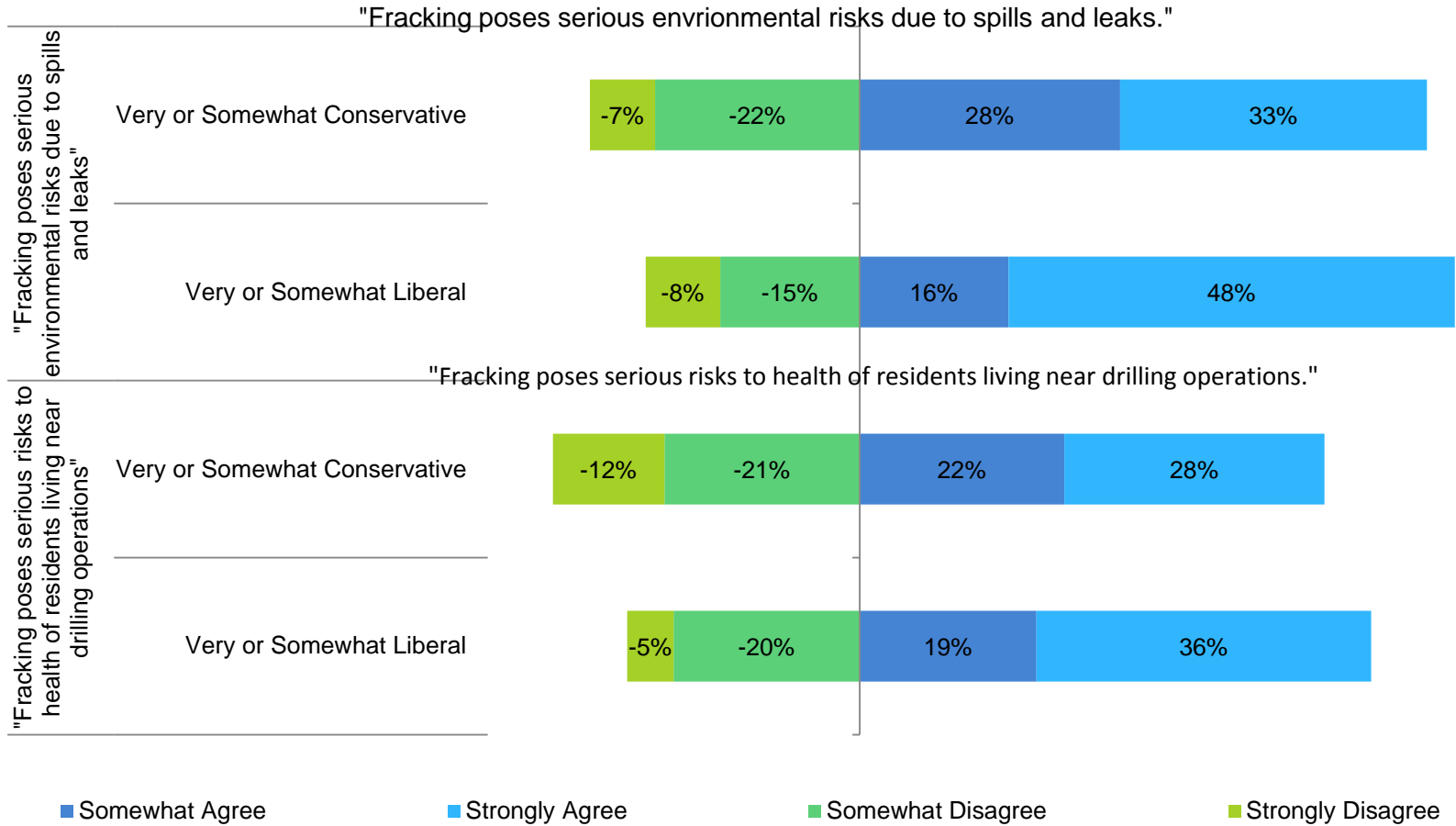
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure
Canada	7%	15%	17%	38%	22%
United States	11%	27%	20%	32%	10%

Views on the Effects of Fracking among Basin Residents



	Strongly or Somewhat Agree	Strongly or Somewhat Disagree	Not Sure
Fracking offers economic benefits to communities, such as job creation and lower energy prices	57%	27%	17%
Fracking poses serious environmental risks due to spills and leaks	62%	24%	15%
Fracking for natural gas reduces carbon emissions by reducing the use of coal	46%	26%	29%
Fracking promotes energy independence by increasing the supply of fossil fuels extracted in the US/Canada	52%	24%	24%
Fracking poses serious risks to health of residents living near drilling operations	53%	25%	23%
Fracking in (state/province) poses major risks to the state/province's water resources	59%	22%	19%

Ideology and Views on Fracking in the Basin



Public Preferences Regarding Authority over Fracking in the Basin

This entity should have...	Great Deal of Authority	Some Authority	No Authority	Not Sure
The Federal Government	36%	37%	18%	9%
Provincial/State Governments	47%	40%	6%	7%
Local Governments	35%	47%	11%	8%
Land Owners	49%	38%	6%	7%

US/Canada Comparison Regarding Federal Control over Fracking in the Basin

