

Second of Two Part Series on Obama's Budget and Petroleum Strategy,
Part 2 on Energy Strategy

**Obama's Energy Strategy—Rejection of Keystone Pipeline a
Temporary Expedient; President Criticized for Energy Policy**

**Weekly CEO/Business Leader Poll By COMPAS in *Canadian Business*
For Publication Week of February 27th, 2012**



**COMPAS Inc.
Public Opinion and Customer Research
Week of February 27th, 2012**

1.0 Introduction

From the CEOs and business leaders on the COMPAS business panel, President Obama earns a bare passing grade for his encouragement of natural gas production and a failing grade for insufficiently cutting reliance on overseas oil (table 2a). His role in cancelling the Keystone pipeline is perceived as a temporary expedient til the next election (table 2b).

By a 2:1 ratio, panelists do not give the President credit to a reduced reliance on foreign energy sources (table 2c).

These are the key findings from this past week's Internet survey of CEOs and business leaders on the COMPAS panel. The weekly business survey is undertaken for *Canadian Business* magazine.

2.0 Details in Tables

Table 2a: Now that you've had a chance to see President Obama in action for many months, would you please score his performance on a 100 point, report card-type scale in respect of dealing effectively with RANDOMIZE

	2012	2009
	MEAN	MEAN
Race relations at home	60	64
Healthcare policy	55	57
Encouraging natural gas production	52	N/A
Islamist radicalism abroad	50	54
The environment	49	50
Managing the economy	49	N/A



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	2012	2009
	MEAN	MEAN
Reducing U.S. reliance on overseas oil imports	40	N/A
Managing the deficit	38	N/A

Table 2b: President Obama played an important role in stopping the Keystone pipeline that would have benefitted Canada's energy exports. Which of the following opinions is closest to your own? The stoppage... RANDOMIZE

	%
Was a temporary political expedient till after the next election	73
Will involve a multi-year delay	14
Will do permanent harm to Canada's exporting of energy to the U.S.	13
Don't know	0

Table 2c: U.S. reliance on foreign energy sources has fallen recently because of a slowing economy, technological progress in extracting natural gas and oil from American fields, and government support. On a 7 point scale where 1 means no real credit and 7 a lot of credit, how much credit should President Obama get for the United States' greater energy self-reliance these days?

MEAN	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	DNK
3.2	3	2	20	17	16	24	16	2

The following verbatim comments provide a nuanced sense of respondent opinion:

Don't blame Obama for the faults of a dysfunctional Congress.



It is very difficult to lay blame for the U.S. deficit on the White House, when Congress is dominated by the Republicans - dealing with the question in a proactive manner requires both political parties to make the commitment to deficit elimination.

Too many unemployed have left the job market. Too many are borrowing beyond their means. Too many are leveraged and exposed to ANY increase in fixed costs. Too many are aging, living longer and not needing to spend on fringe items. All this points to a slowdown of epic proportions for a long time to come.

Encourage self-reliance and let all factions settle between themselves.

The U.S. controls their currency, why do we not do anything in Canada?

We really should be focusing on Canadian solutions instead of being so concerned with the goings on south of the border.

3.0 Methodology

The COMPAS web-survey of CEOs and leaders of small, medium, and large corporations was conducted February 21 – 23, 2012. Respondents constitute an essentially hand-picked panel with a higher numerical representation of small and medium-sized firms.

Because of the small population of CEOs and business leaders from which the sample was drawn, the study can be considered more accurate than comparably sized general public studies. In studies of the general public, surveys of n=91 are deemed accurate to within approximate 10.3 percentage points 19 times out of 20. The principal and investigator on this study is Conrad Winn, Ph.D.

