While the New Jersey State Senate recently voted down a package of ecology measures, the New Jersey public continues to register considerable concern over environmental problems. The latest New Jersey Poll, conducted by the Eagleton Institute, found that 73% of the state's citizens considered air pollution caused by automobiles to be a serious problem.

Eagleton surveyed a statewide random sample of 1224 persons, 18 years of age and over by telephone between March 23 and 31.

Data from the Eagleton poll indicate that the Division of Motor Vehicles' auto emission testing program -- the starting date of which has been delayed from July 1973 to February 1974 -- will not face widespread public resistance, as some public officials seem to believe. Of the people surveyed, 78% felt that automobiles which excessively pollute the air should be kept off the road. Only 17% were in opposition, while 5% had no opinion.

Perhaps because they have had more experience with problems of auto pollution, those with cars are more in favor of taking polluters off the road than those without cars. Of car owners, 79% favor such a regulatory policy; of those who do not own cars, 66% favor this policy. Of the entire sample, nine out of ten persons reported that they own a car.

Even those people whose vehicles are unlikely to satisfy stiffer auto pollution standards favor regulations to control pollution from auto emissions. The poll found that 10% of the car owners thought their car would not pass reasonable auto emission
standards but even this group strongly favored taking polluting cars off the road. Among respondents who feel their cars are polluters, 71% agree that cars that excessively pollute the air should be kept off the roads. Only 23% disagree, while 6% have no opinion.

The Division of Motor Vehicles estimates, on the basis of a trial program, has found that 11% of the cars will not pass when auto emissions standards become more stringent.

The results of the poll were tabulated by Opinion Research Corporation of Princeton, New Jersey.

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TO: POLITICAL REPORTERS

FROM: JOHN C. BLYDENBURGH

RE: THE SIXTH NEW JERSEY POLL, RELEASE #8, MONDAY MORNING, MAY 7, 1973

The data and questions on which this analysis is based are as follows:

"There has been a lot of talk about automobiles and air pollution. Do you think that air pollution caused by automobiles is a serious problem in New Jersey?"

- YES 73%
- NO 22
- Don't know/No opinion 5%

"Do you feel that cars that excessively pollute the air should be kept off the roads?"

- YES 78%
- NO 17
- Don't know/No opinion 5%

"Do you or your family own a car?"

- YES 90%
- NO 10
- Don't know/No opinion

ASKED OF CAR OWNERS ONLY:
"If your car were tested, do you think it would meet reasonable auto pollution emission standards?"

- YES 74%
- NO 9
- Don't know/No opinion 7%