

Utility Wind Energy Survey of Public Opinion

Wednesday, May 06, 2015

32

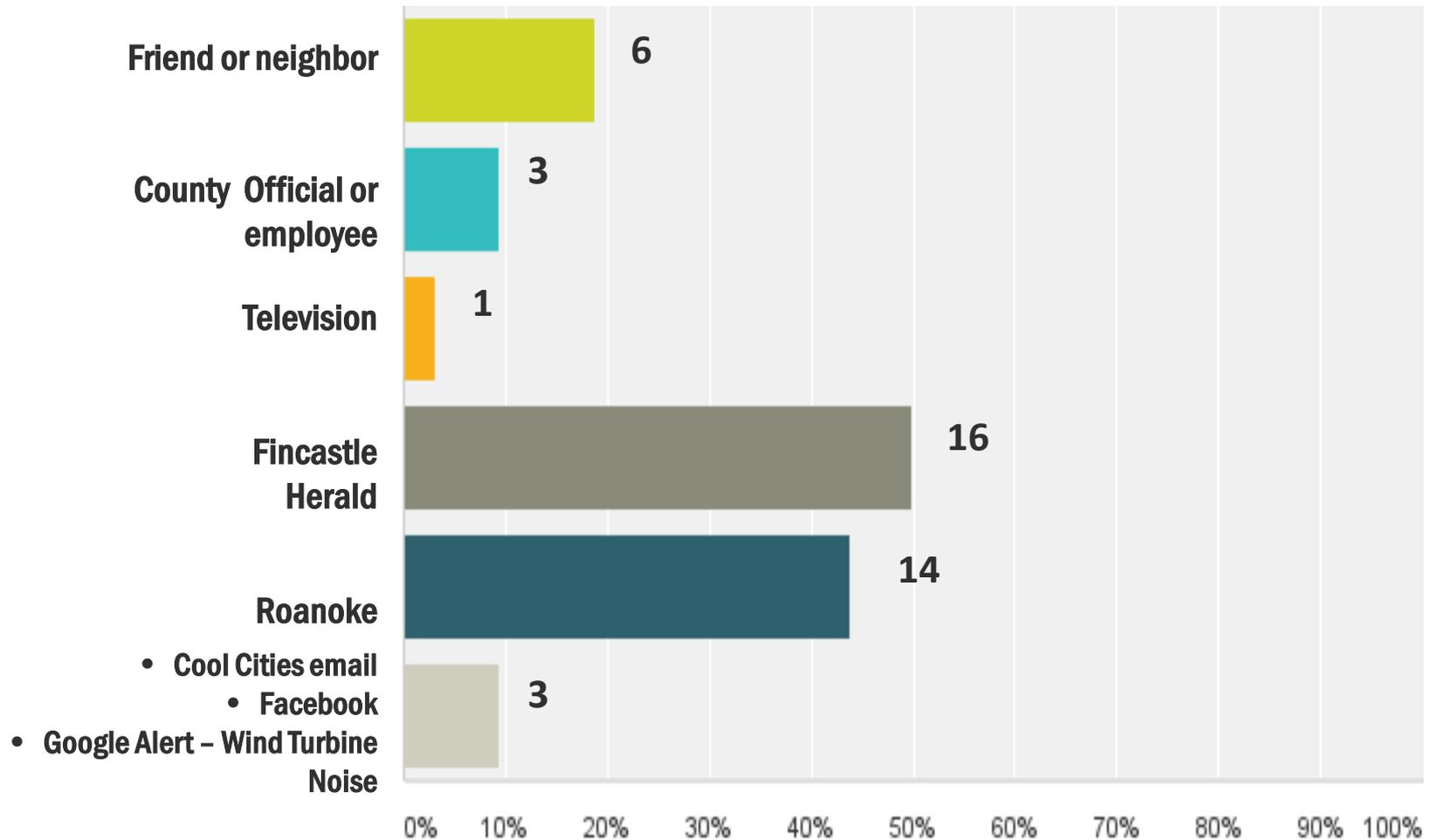
Total Responses

Date Created: Thursday, April 16, 2015

Complete Responses: 29

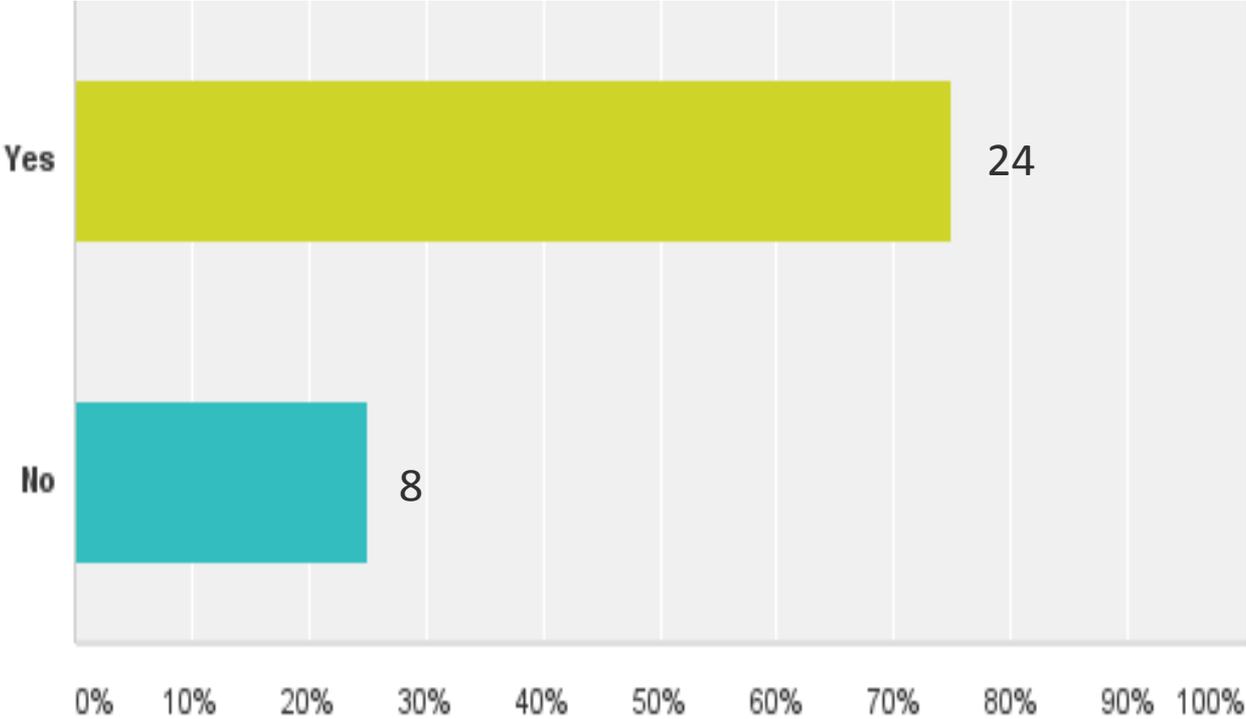
Q1: How did you hear about Botetourt County's consideration of wind energy facility regulations?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



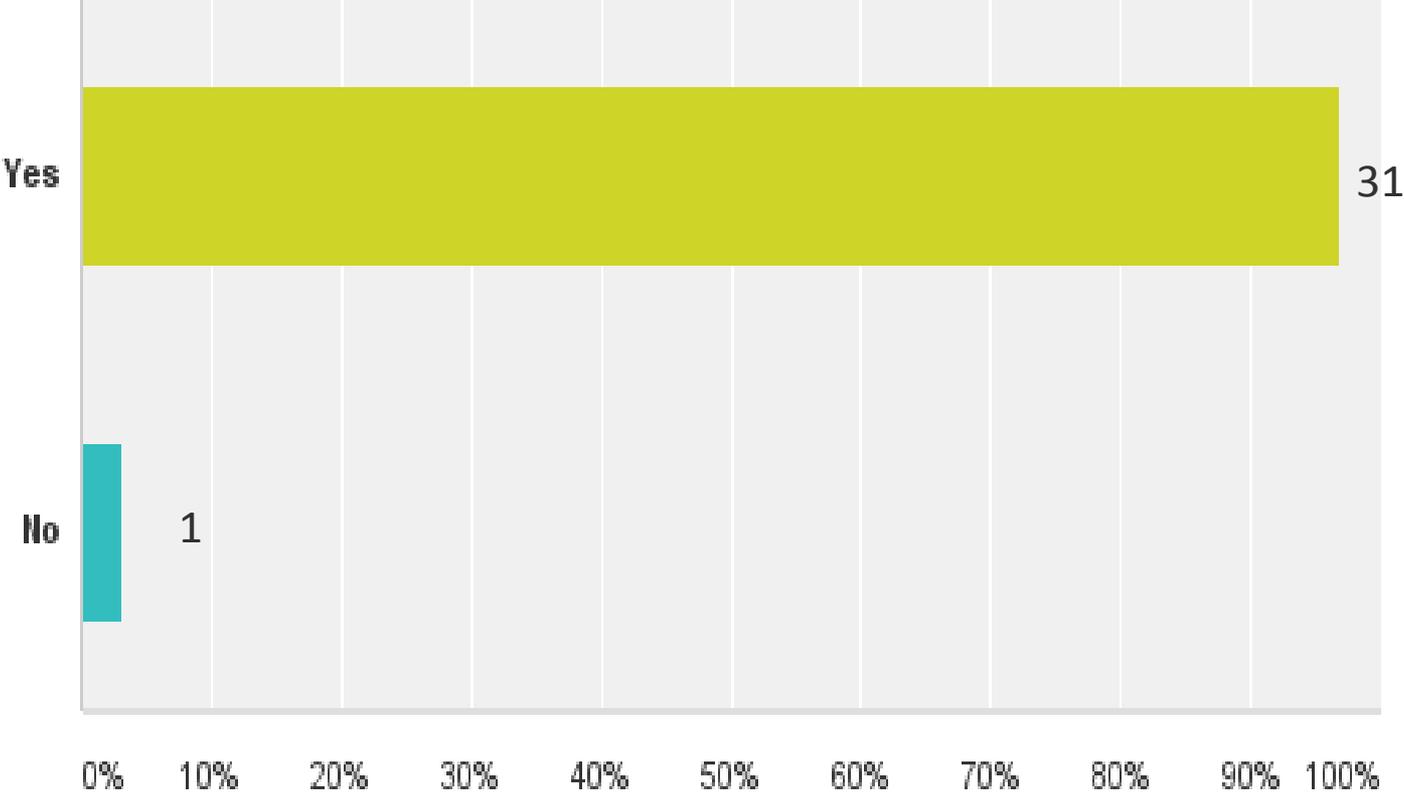
Q2: Information about the proposed wind energy standards and requirements are posted on the Botetourt County website and was presented at a public forum on April 21st, 2015, at the Greenfield Education and Training Center. Did you attend the public forum on April 21st?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



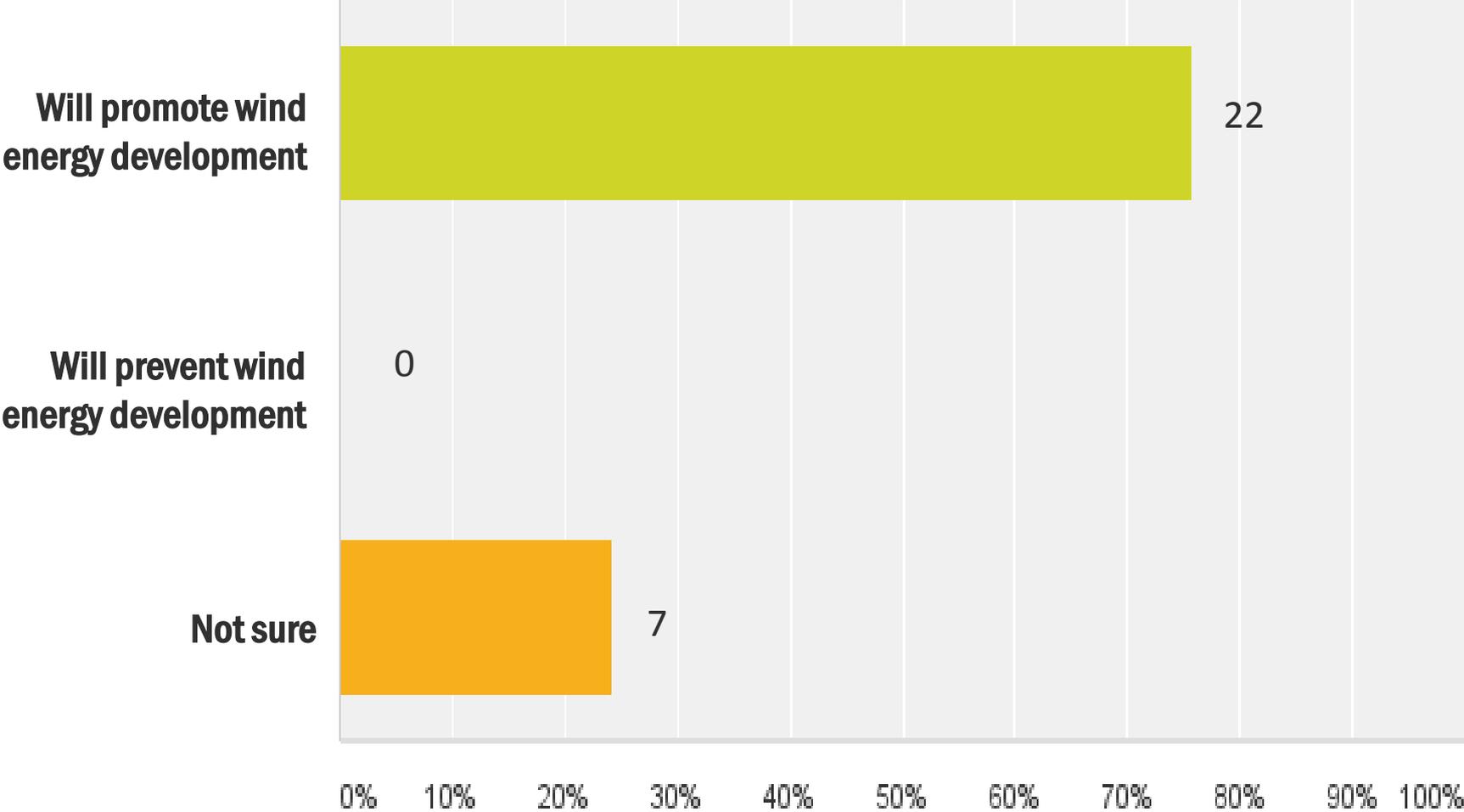
Q3: Have you reviewed the information prepared by the County on proposed wind energy standards and requirements?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



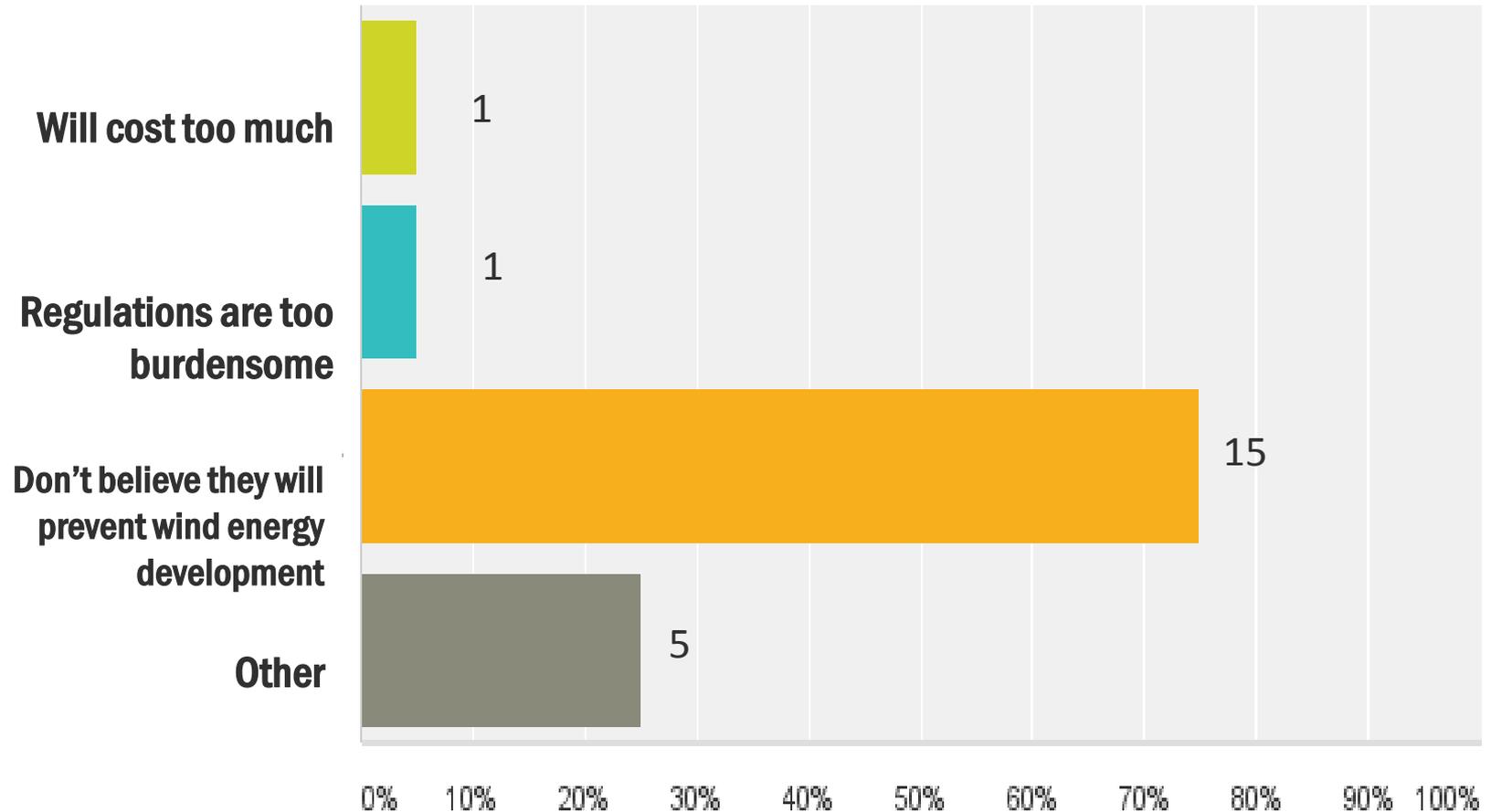
Q4: Wind Energy Development

Answered: 29 Skipped: 3



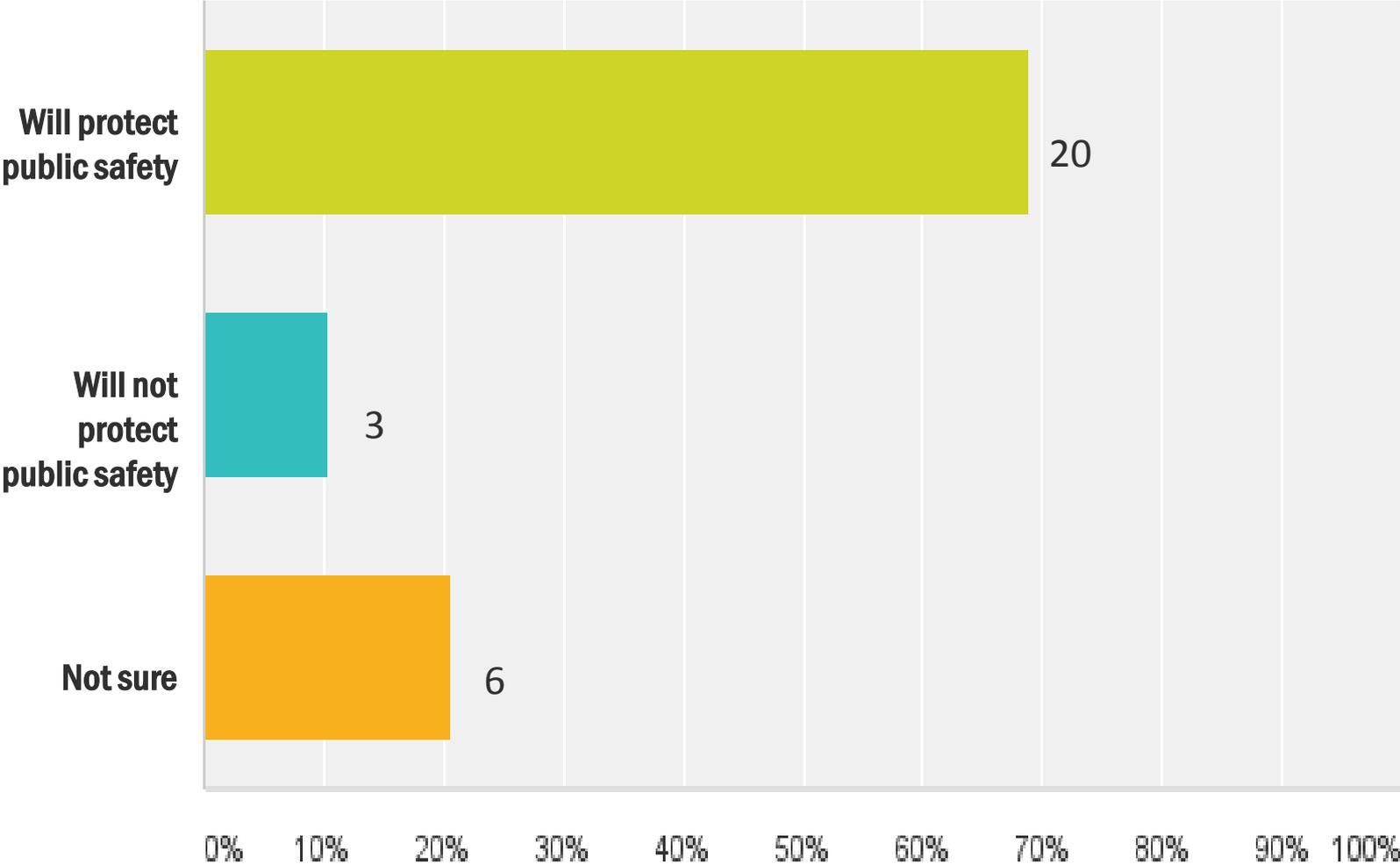
Q5: If you think the proposed regulations will prevent the development of wind energy, please indicate why.

Answered: 20 Skipped: 12



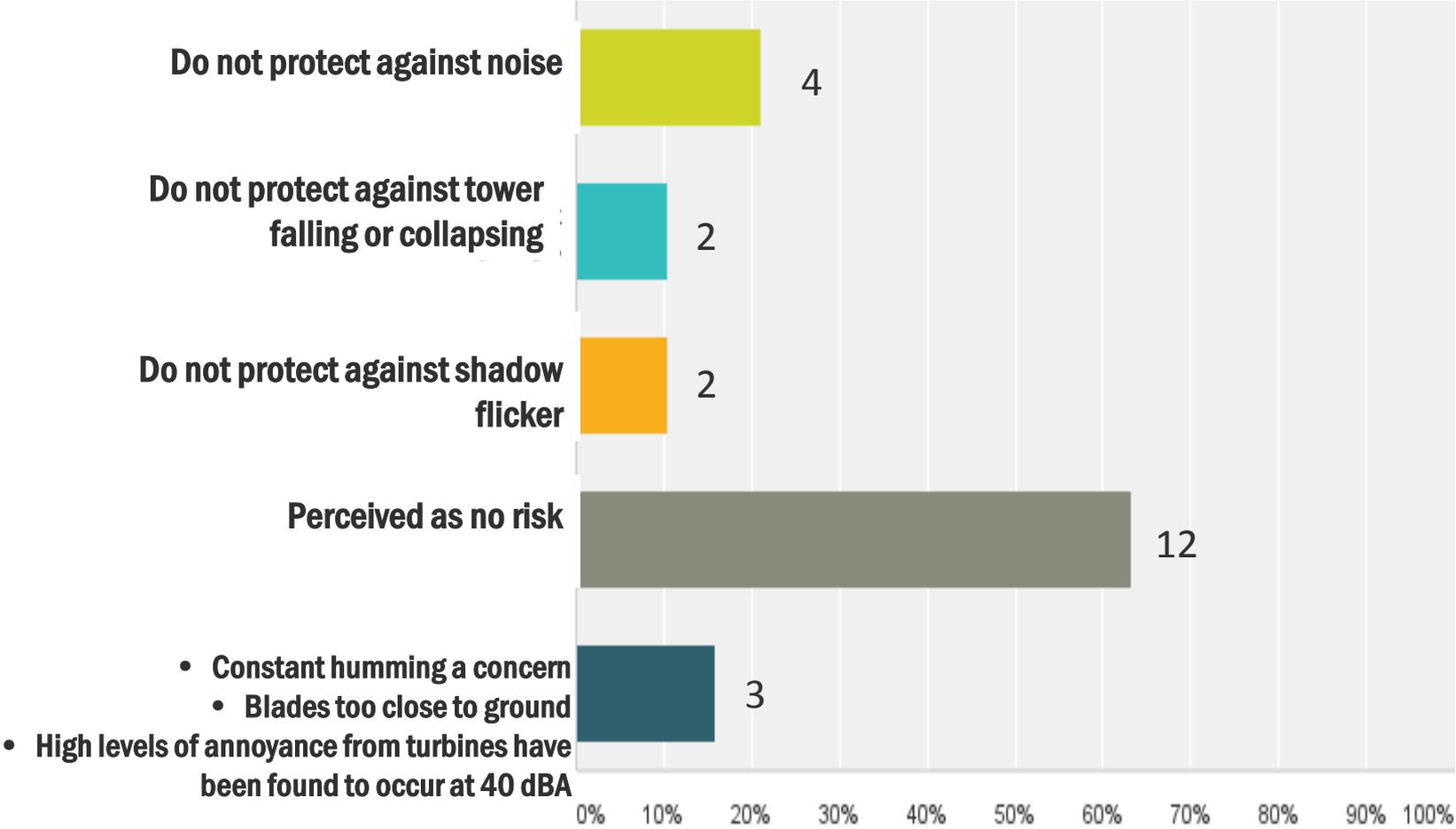
Q6: Public Health and Safety

Answered: 29 Skipped: 3



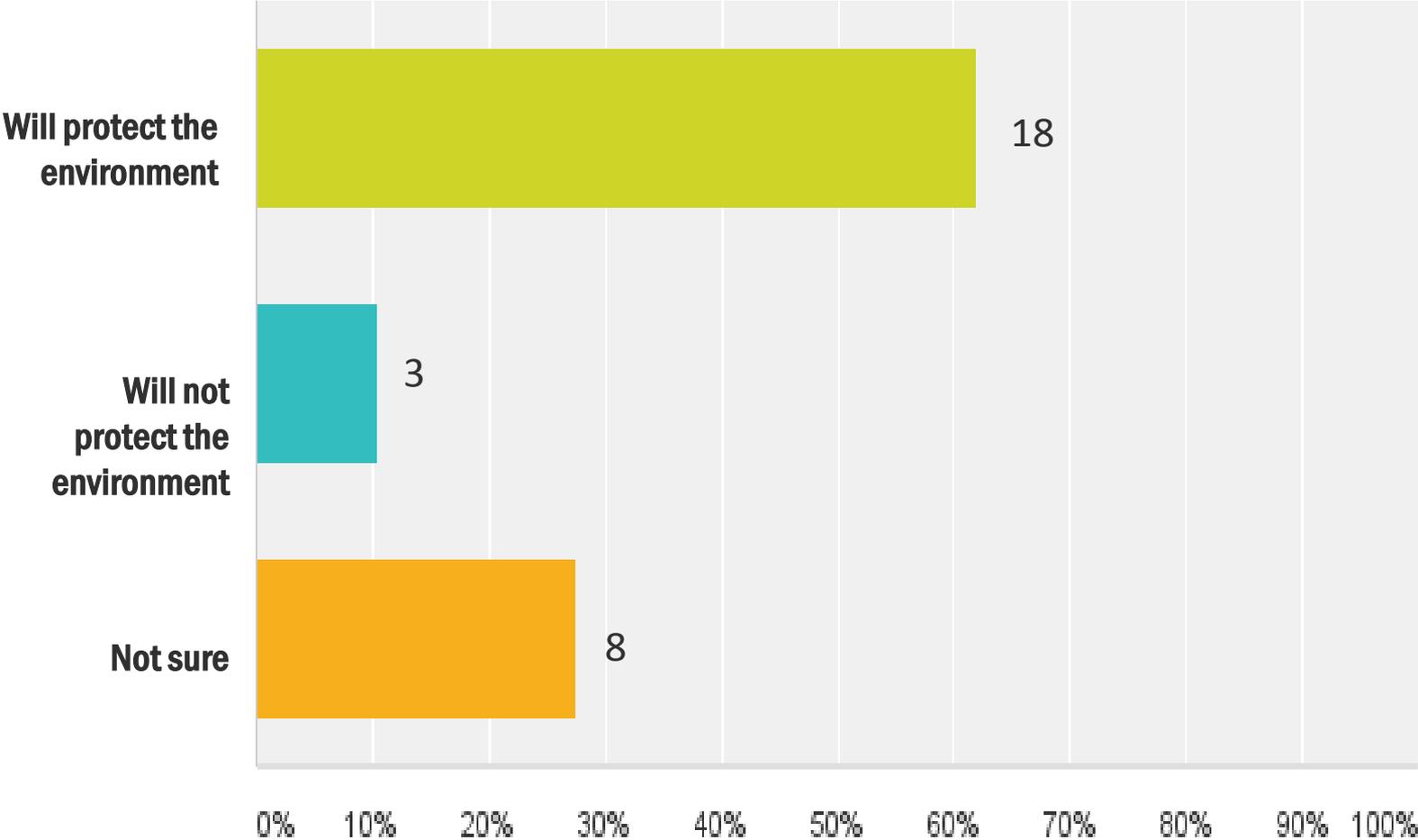
Q7: If you think the regulations do not adequately protect public health and safety, please indicate why.

Answered: 19 Skipped: 13



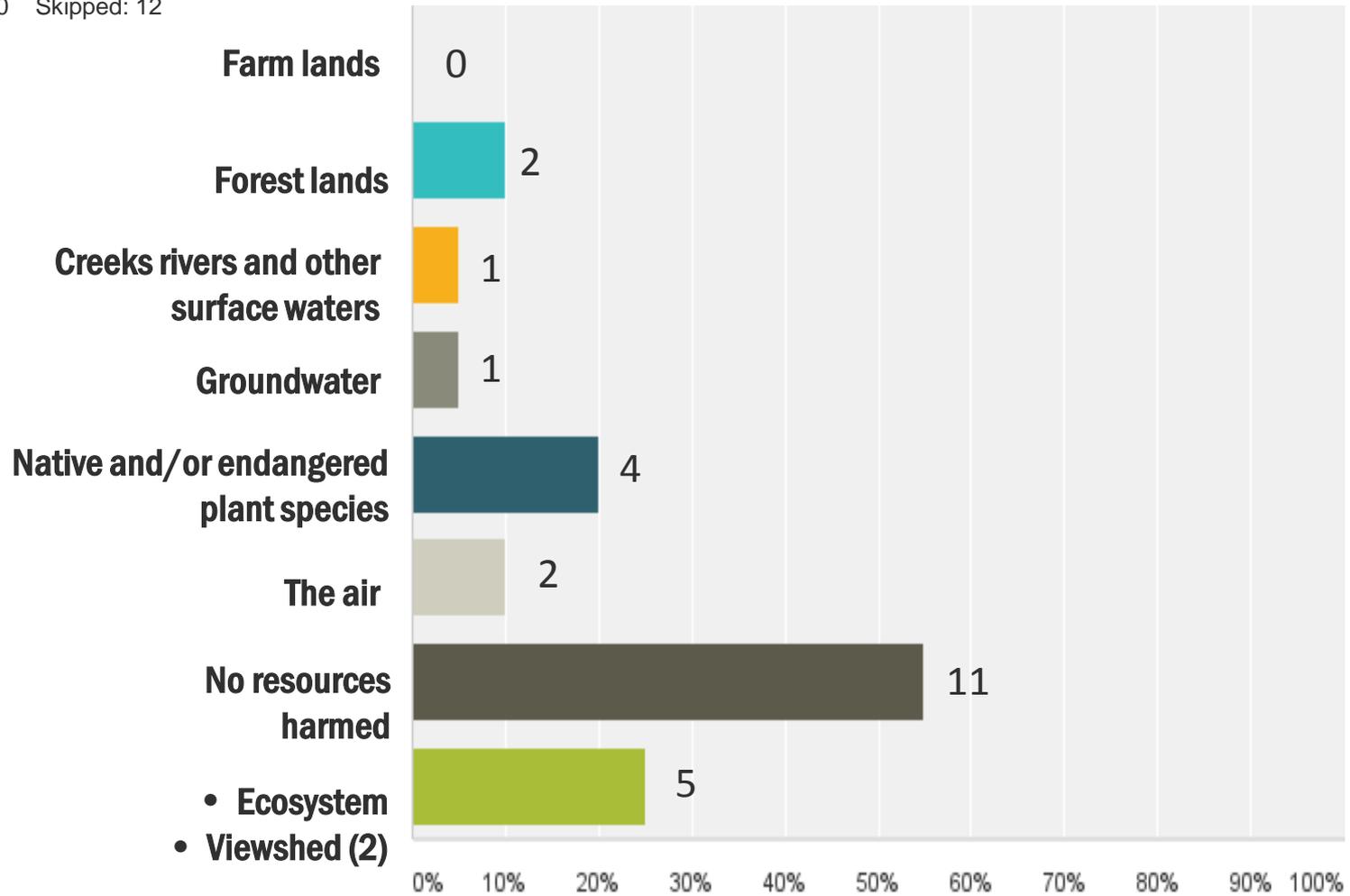
Q8: Environmental Impact

Answered: 29 Skipped: 3



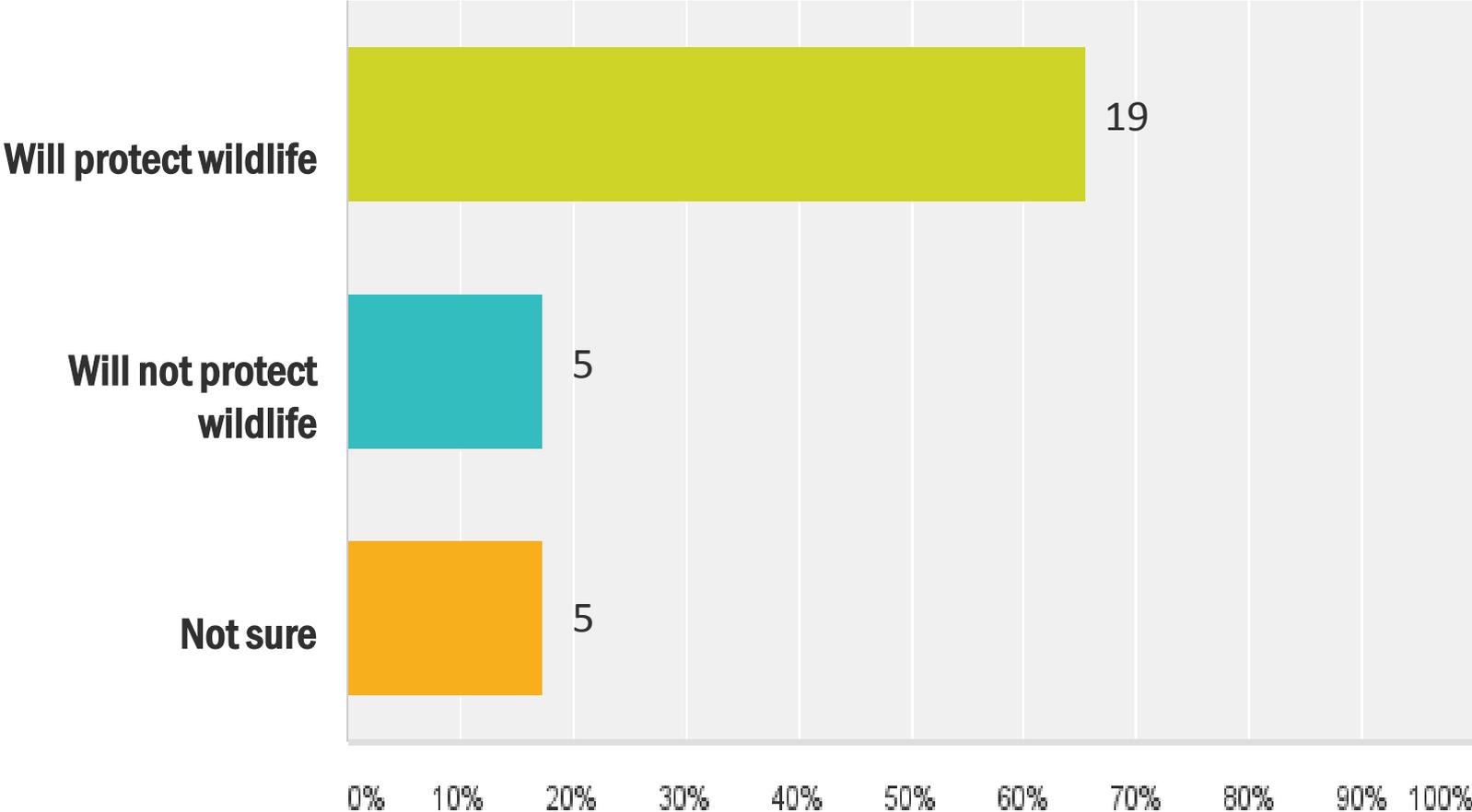
Q9: If you think the proposed regulations are not protective of the environment, what resources do you think would be potentially harmed?

Answered: 20 Skipped: 12



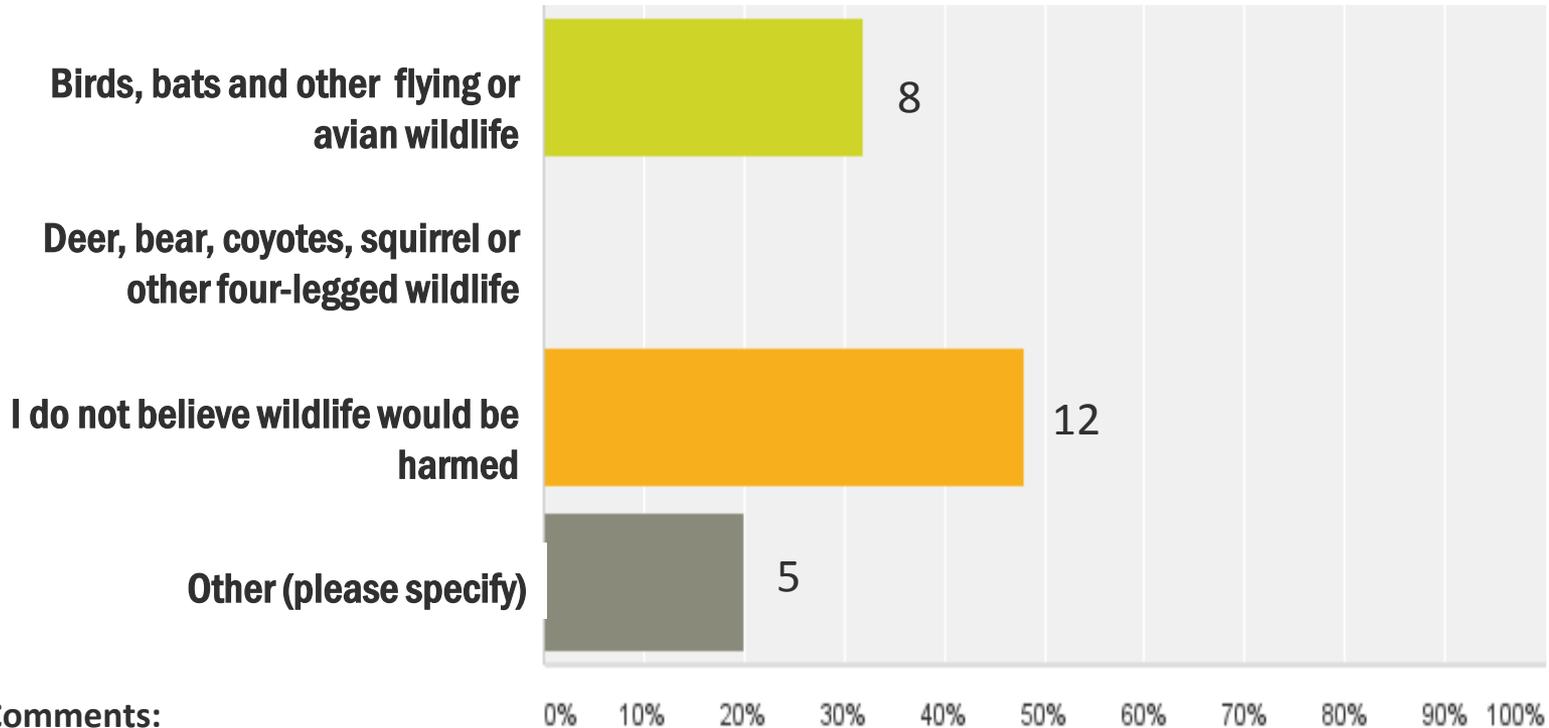
Q10: Wildlife Protection

Answered: 29 Skipped: 3



Q11: If you think the proposed standards and requirements will not protect wildlife, what wildlife do you think would be most vulnerable to harm?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 7

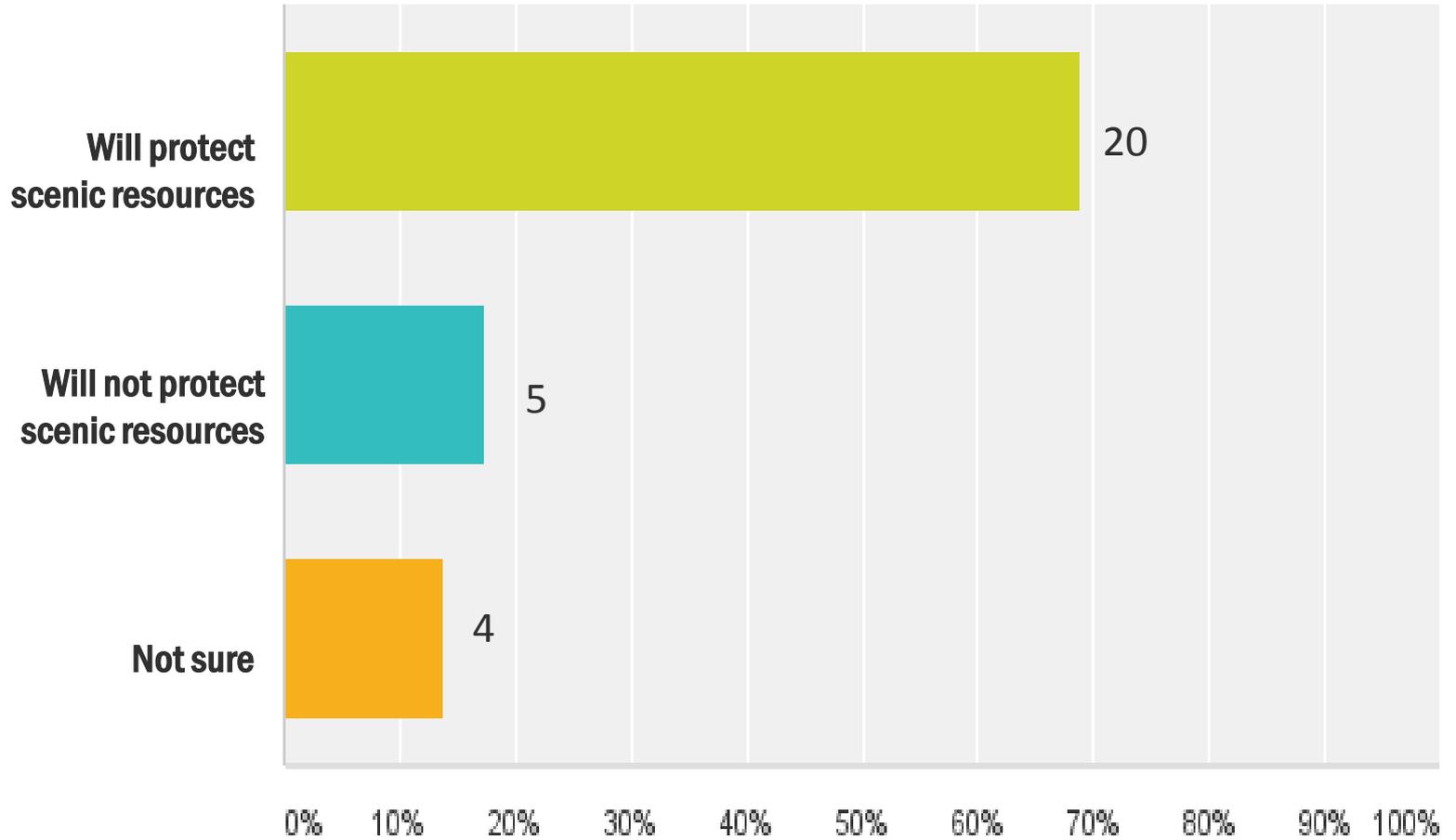


Comments:

- All wildlife native to the proposed site as well as domestic animals within range of the site - there are no long term impact studies.
- Blades 15' from ground would scare deer, bears, etc.
- Don't know (2).

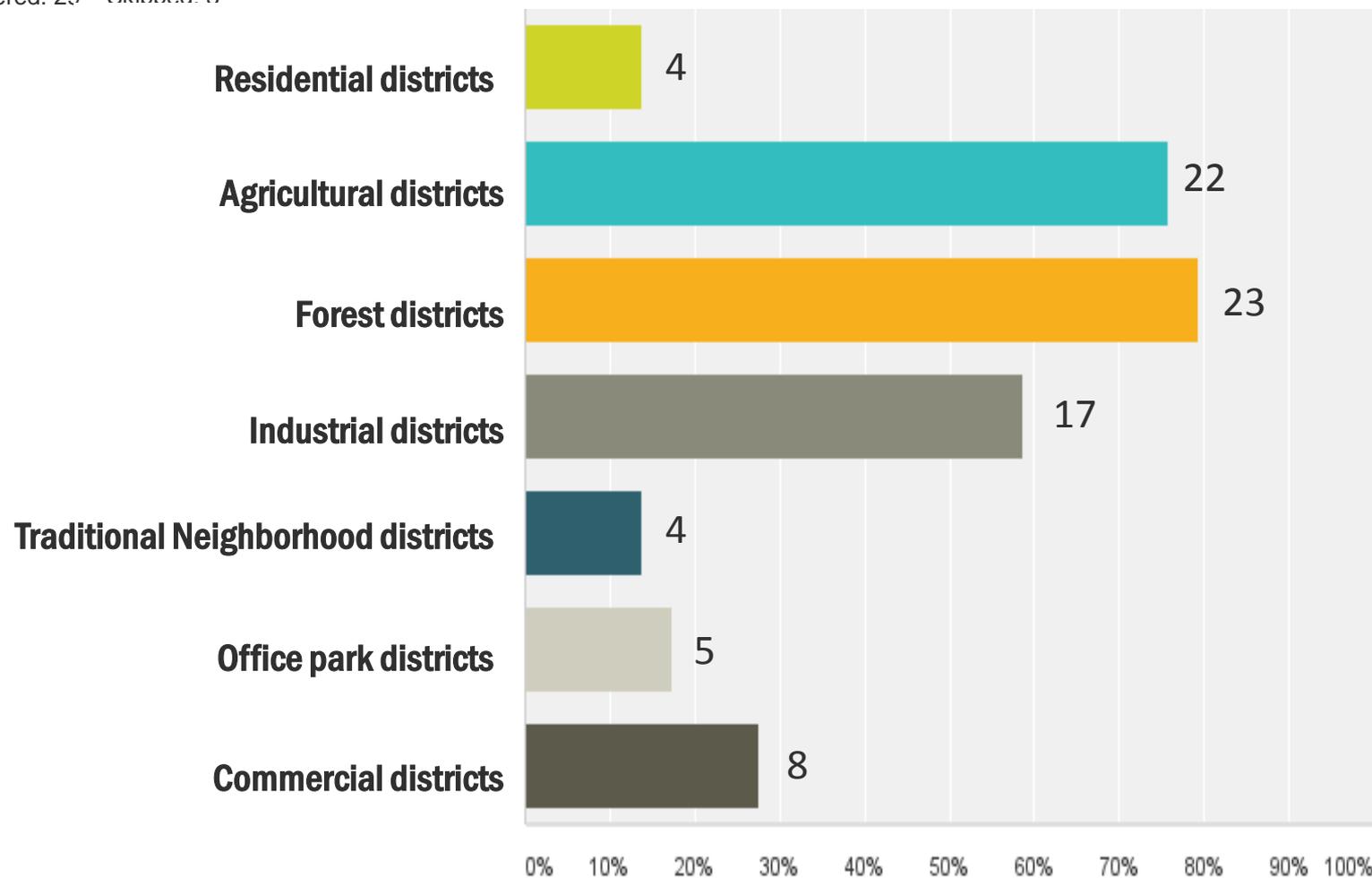
Q12: Scenic Protection

Answered: 29 Skipped: 3



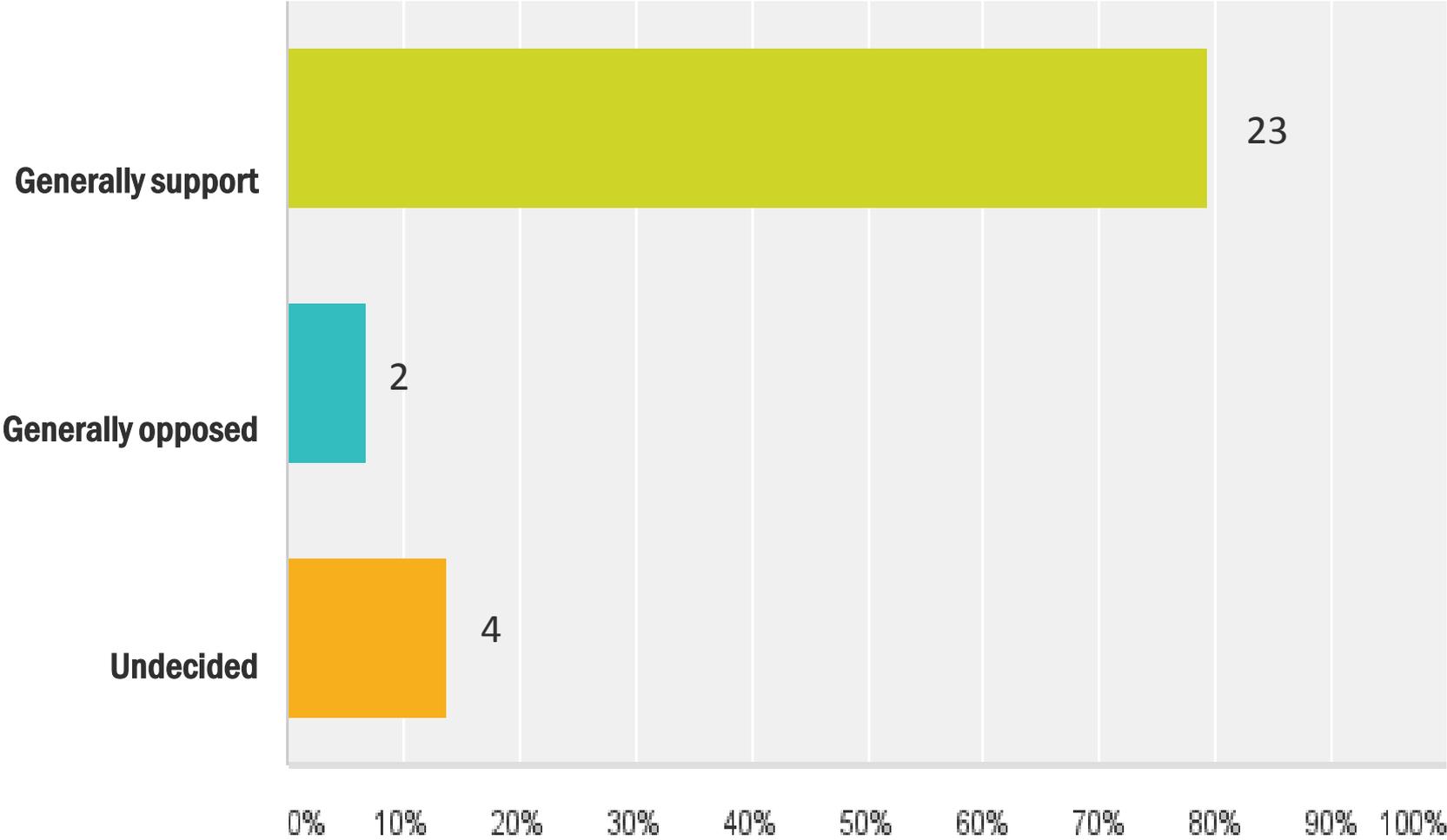
Q13: As proposed, utility-scale wind energy facilities (up to 500 feet tall) could only be located in agricultural districts and forest conservation districts where there is typically more open space. Please select areas below where you believe utility-scale wind energy development should be possible.

Answered: 29 Skipped: 3



Q14: General Support

Answered: 29 Skipped: 3



Q15: Please make any additional comments you have on the proposed utility-scale wind energy standards and requirements.

Answered: 29 Skipped: 3

Comments:

- The mountain is in view out our front window. The tax assessor told us taxes are higher for mountain view or water view so will taxes decrease if view disturbed? There is a big difference in Rupert, WVA and Botetourt. Also the wind farms out west and along beaches. It would be good to put one or two on mountain to see how they affect the views for county citizens. The power & cell towers on Purgatory Mt. are not noticeable except when sun shines and there's a reflection.
- I hope that the electricity produced will be credited to the electric rate payers of Botetourt county. The wind turbine project is not worth the cost to the scenic beauty of Botetourt County.
- The wind turbine project is not worth the cost to the scenic beauty of Botetourt County. Who in Botetourt county will benefit the most from the huge towers other than the owners of the generators? Where are the projects owners located? Do they live in Botetourt county?

Q15: Please make any additional comments you have on the proposed utility-scale wind energy standards and requirements.

Answered: 29 Skipped: 3

Comments:

- These are already unsightly - our agriculture zoned land in BoCo is the most beautiful around and I don't want to see these everyday on my property's horizon (mountain view) this will diminish my property value The standards & requirements presented are boiler plate they will not protect our county from the negative impacts short term or long term. This form of energy production has not been objectively evaluated and the current government legislation is pro wind regardless of impact. The materials presented to rebut these concerns were produced and paid for by the energy company council seeking to profit from this endeavor. Further, the county official I spoke with kept referencing a trip to a WV wind farm that 1. was likely sponsored by the company and 2. one he doesn't have to look at daily. Finally, I have lived near 10-20 miles from a wind farm in the past and do not agree with building these farms in even agriculture districts. I feel they are better suited for either A. the most remote areas (WV abandoned coals fields or B. commercial/industrial districts where noise/clutter is already expected. I choose to live in a BoCo agriculture district for the wildlife, nature, scenery and peacefulness.
- I am glad to see the county looking at alternatives for energy, Any new construction should have solar on roofing to include commercial and residential.

Q15: Please make any additional comments you have on the proposed utility-scale wind energy standards and requirements.

Answered: 29 Skipped: 3

Comments:

- I would like to see contingency plans for protection of migratory birds; perhaps shut down times during migratory seasons, for example. Botetourt has recently seen a come-back of bald eagles on occasion and it is important to allow birds like that to return here. Hawks migrate through here in the fall/winter months and I would like to see some protection for these larger birds. A 500' windmill is high enough that it should not affect deer, etc. Additionally, lighting needs to be considered. Obviously something 500' will need an aircraft beacon, but it does not need to be completely lit so that it looks like the Sports Complex at night. We need our dark skies or we will forget the stars.
- I know this location in Botetourt County, and I know they will be visible by only a minority. It's great for the county, and it's great for the state. The project will inject millions of dollars into the county's economy, and it can only have a positive impact for the area.
- Windmills are beautiful
- I am hopeful means of encouraging minimal impact on avian populations are included as much as possible in the regulations.
- I feel that 500' is too tall. I pastor in the Eagle Rock area.

Q15: Please make any additional comments you have on the proposed utility-scale wind energy standards and requirements.

Answered: 29 Skipped: 3

Comments:

- I am a landowner in the Fincastle district.
- I would hope this program continues in Botetourt County
- Windmills are beautiful and a renewable energy source
- Please support wind power. DOE: 27% more jobs per KWH than coal & 66% more jobs per KWH than natural gas
- The prospects of a wind farm in Botetourt Co. are very encouraging.
- This is a great choice for power in Botetourt.

Q16: Please select the district in which you live. (optional)

Answered: 28 Skipped: 4

