

Alaska Bulk Fuel Aggregation Study

Appendix A: Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Updated August 2026



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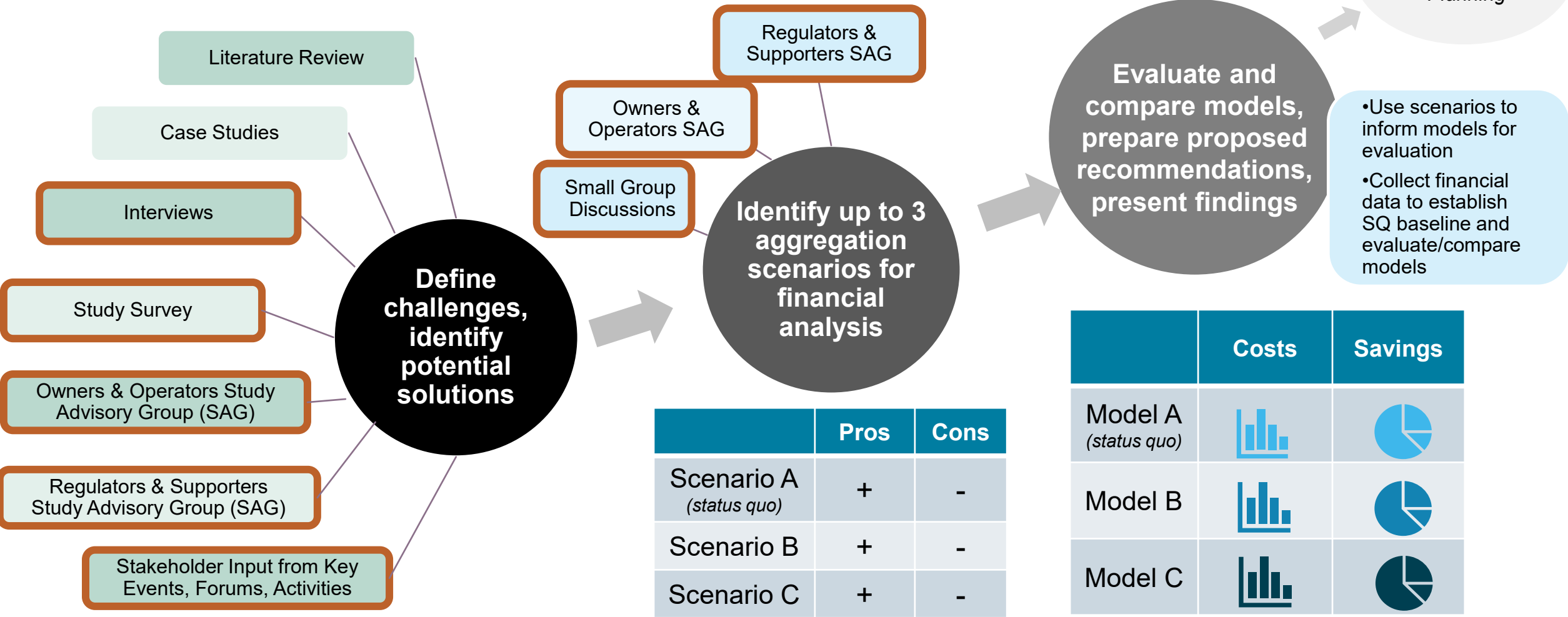
Sections are hyper-linked in blue.

Completed and Ongoing Engagement Strategies			
Strategy	Timing	Focus	Audience
Study Website	January 2025 – March 2026	Source of information about the study entire process.	Industry professionals, key informants, SAG members, community members
Study Advisory Groups (SAGs)	January 2025 – June 2026	Informing the process	Owners & Operators; Regulators & Supporters
Interviews	January – February 2025	Understanding initial perspectives	SAG members, other key informants
Survey	April – May 2025	Technical and quantitative questions to inform modeling and recommendations	Industry professionals, community members
Small Group Discussions	June 2025	In-depth conversation exploring key topic areas and solutions	Industry professionals, community members
Events, Forums, and Activities	Alaska Energy Conference Bulk Fuel Summit (October 2024) U.S. Coast Guard Sector Western Alaska Industry Day (March 2025) Alaska Infrastructure Development Symposium (April 2025) Business of Alaska Rural Energy Virtual Workshop (October 2025) Alaska Municipal League Annual Local Government Conference (December 2025)		Varies; promoted the study, shared & prioritized recommendations
Remaining Steps			
Public Comment Period Alaska Rural Energy Conference (October 2026)			Industry professionals, SAGs, conference attendees, community members

Study Timeline & Progress to Date

Engagement strategies are outlined in orange.

Next Steps:
Implementation
Planning



Fall '24 – Spring '25

Summer '25

Summer '26

Alaska Bulk Fuel Study

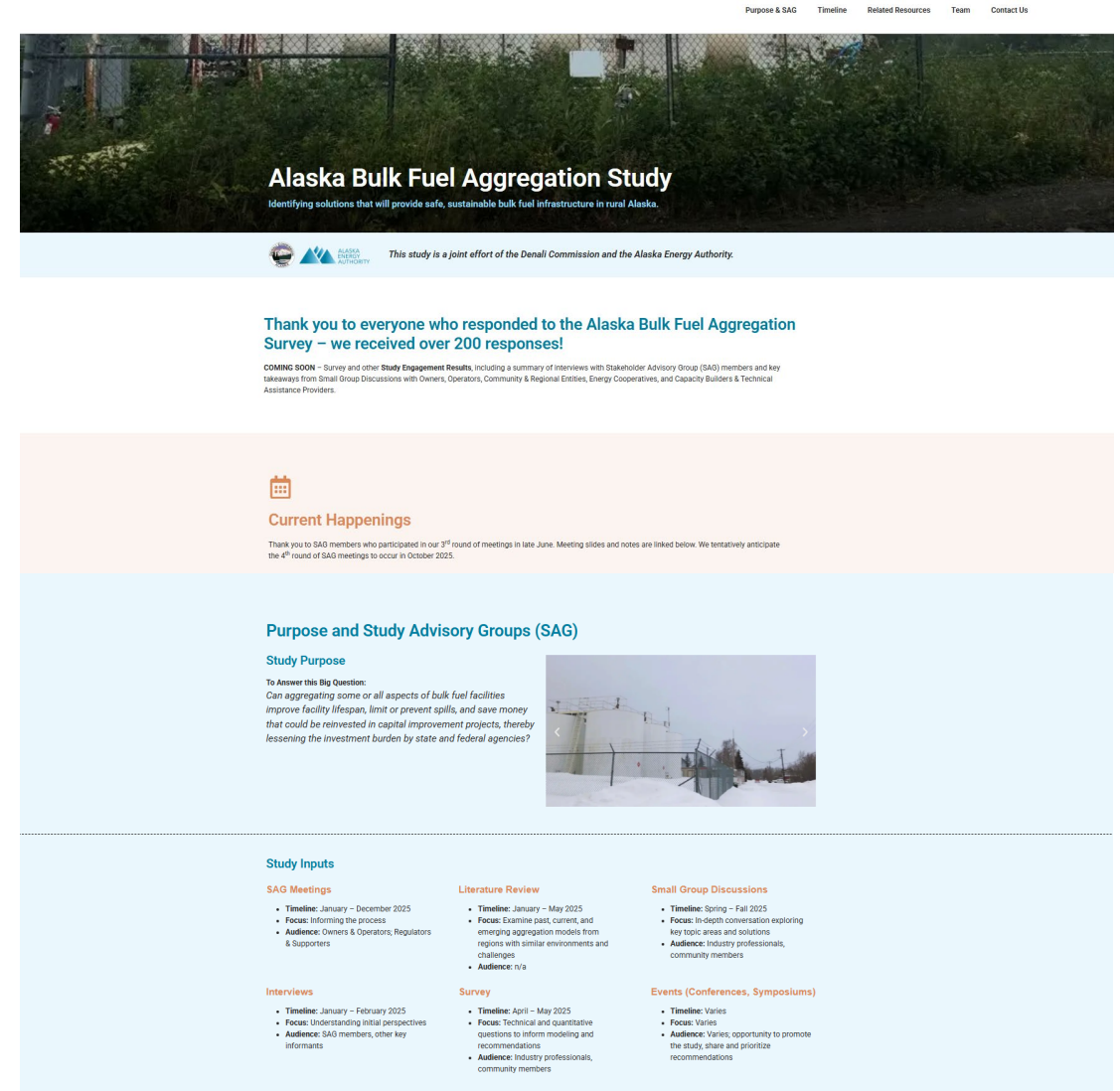
Study Website

January 2025 – October 2026

Study Website

- Launched January 2025
- Provides an overview of the Bulk Fuel Aggregation Study, including:
 - Current Happenings
 - Study Purpose
 - Study Inputs
 - Study Advisory Groups (SAGs)
 - Timeline
 - Related Resources
 - Team and Contact Information

Link: <https://www.akbulkfuelstudy.com/>



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Study Advisory Groups (SAGs)

January 2025 – June 2026

Study Advisory Groups (SAGs): Tribal, Partner, Stakeholder Engagement

Purpose: Participate and inform approach for study content via meetings, email, and outreach activities.

Two SAGs



Owners & Operators (O&O)

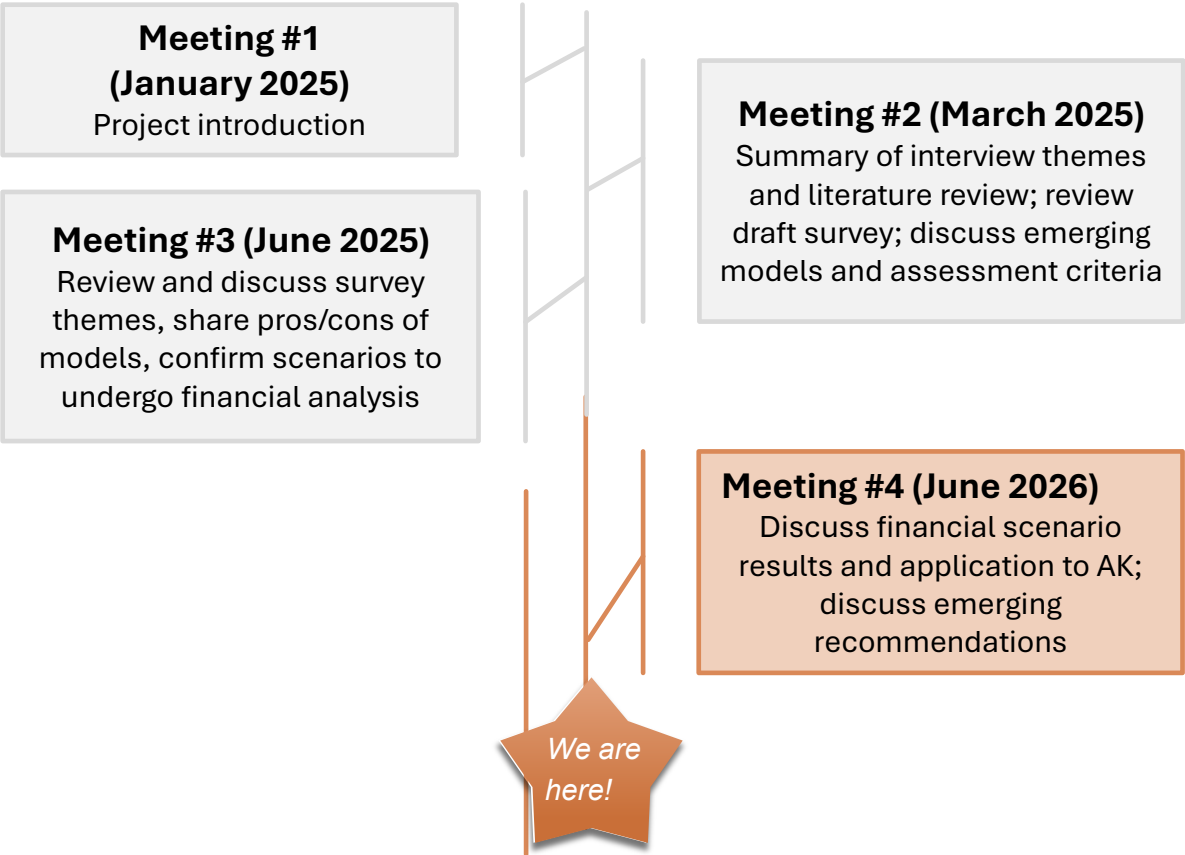
Represent the interests of entities that regulate tank farms, assist operators, and/or fund related infrastructure improvements.



Regulators & Supporters (R&S)

Represent the interests of entities that regulate tank farms, assist operators, and/or fund related infrastructure improvements.

Approximate Timeline for Phase 1



SAG Composition, Roles, and Meeting Materials

View all SAG updates on the study website: <https://www.akbulkfuelstudy.com/>

SAG Composition and Roles

- SAG Composition:
 - [Owners & Operators SAG](#)
 - [Regulators & Supporters SAG](#)
- [SAG Owners & Operators Roles and Responsibilities](#)
- [SAG Regulators & Supporters Roles and Responsibilities](#)

SAG Meeting Agendas, Minutes, & Related Materials

- Owners and Operators SAG
 - January 21, 2025 Kickoff Meeting: [Agenda](#) and [Slides/Notes](#)
 - March 19th, 2025 Meeting: [Agenda](#) and [Slides/Notes](#)
 - June 24, 2025 Meeting: [Agenda](#) and [Slides/Notes](#)
- Regulators and Supporters SAG
 - January 15, 2025 Kickoff Meeting: [Agenda](#) and [Slides/Notes](#)
 - March 24th, 2025 Meeting: [Agenda](#) and [Slides/Notes](#)
 - June 27, 2025 Meeting: [Agenda](#) and [Slides/Notes](#)

SAG Responsibilities



Balance personal, regulatory, professional, and community interests



Support the study development process, including stakeholder outreach



Help with study finalization and implementation planning

Alaska Bulk Fuel Study

Interviews

Interviews conducted in February 2025; results presented to Study Advisory Groups in March 2025

Summary of Interviews

SAG	# of Interviews	Stakeholders
 Owners & Operators (O&O)	14	Alaska Energy Authority; Alaska Native Industries Cooperative Association; Bristol Bay Native Association; City of Elim; Everts Air Cargo; Frontier Fuel Services; Inside Passage Electric Cooperative; Kawerak, Inc; Kodiak Area Native Association; Northwest Arctic Borough; Sleetmute; Rural Alaska Fuels Service; Tuntutuliak Community Services Association; Vitus Marine
 Regulators & Supporters (R&S)	12	Alaska Capital Growth; Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs; Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation; Alaska Energy Authority; Alaska Municipal League; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Denali Commission; Environmental Protection Agency; Institute of Social and Economic Research; Native American Bank; UAA Arctic Programs and Strategic Implementation; UAF - Alaska Center for Energy and Power

Interview Process, Analysis, & Presentation

Methodology

- Agnew::Beck conducted **30-minute interviews with SAG members** via phone and Zoom.
 - Blair Schoenborn interviewed Owners and Operators.
 - Maxine Laszlo interviewed Regulators and Supporters.
- Responses from interviews were first **summarized** and then **coded for themes, or ideas that were mentioned multiple times**. The team then counted the number of times a theme was mentioned.

Slide Graphs

- **Blue and orange graphs** show the number of times a theme was mentioned for each SAG (white numbers) and the total of all responses (black numbers in light purple boxes ). Blue = O&O  ; orange = R&S  .
- **Purple graphs** show the total number of times a theme was mentioned in all interviews (black numbers in light purple boxes ).



Slide Call Out Boxes

Gray

Project team commentary on interview results.

Blue

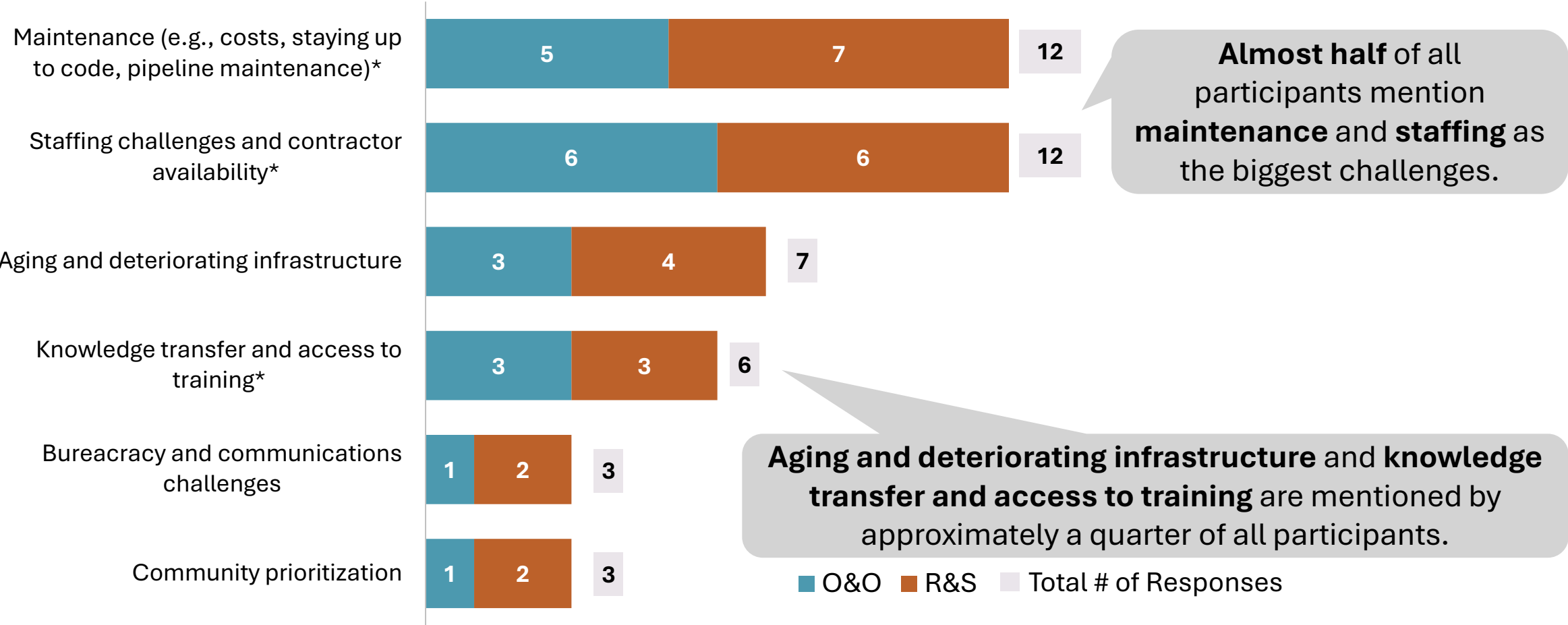
Summarized quote from someone in the Owners and Operators SAG.

Orange

Summarized quote from someone in the Regulators and Supporters SAG.

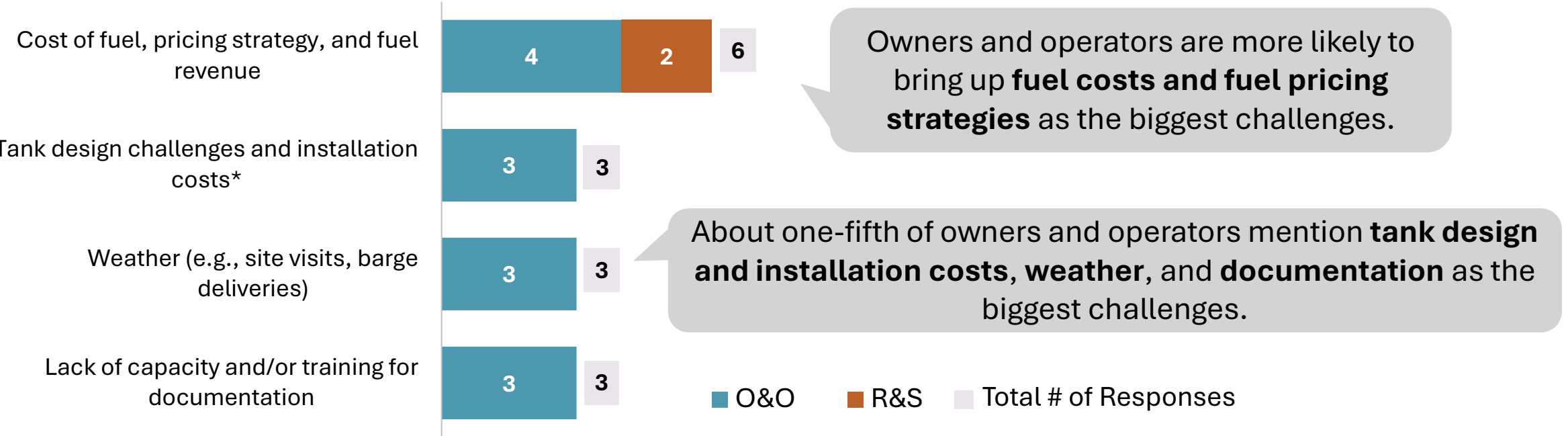
Q2. What are the **biggest challenges** you experience as an owner/operator or regulator/supporter of bulk fuel infrastructure facilities and operations?

Chart 1 of 3: **Areas of alignment between SAG members.** (n=26 interviews); * = top theme from 2024 Bulk Fuel Summit



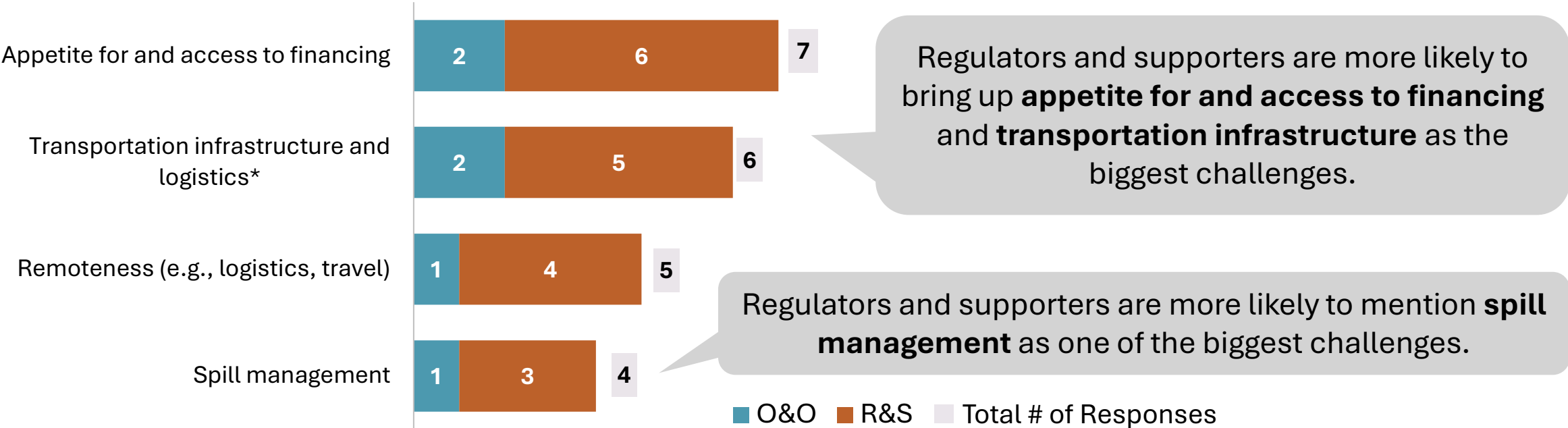
Q2. What are the **biggest challenges** you experience as an owner/operator or regulator/supporter of bulk fuel infrastructure facilities and operations?

Chart 2 of 3: **Challenges mentioned more often by O&O SAG members.** (n=26 interviews); * = top theme from 2024 Bulk Fuel Summit



Q2. What are the **biggest challenges** you experience as an owner/operator or regulator/supporter of bulk fuel infrastructure facilities and operations?

Chart 3 of 3: **Challenges mentioned more often by R&S SAG members.** (n=26 interviews); * = top theme from 2024 Bulk Fuel Summit



Q3. Which of these challenges should we **tackle first**?*

* Many interviewees provided a solution to the challenge in this response.

n=26 interviews

Owners and Operators

“Figure out funding strategy.”

“Bite-size training on operations manuals.”

“Turn-over and record keeping problems.”

“Mentorship - focusing on managers, would cover a wide range of challenges.”

Regulators and Supporters

“Rank and prioritize the different bulk fuel assets that are most in need.”

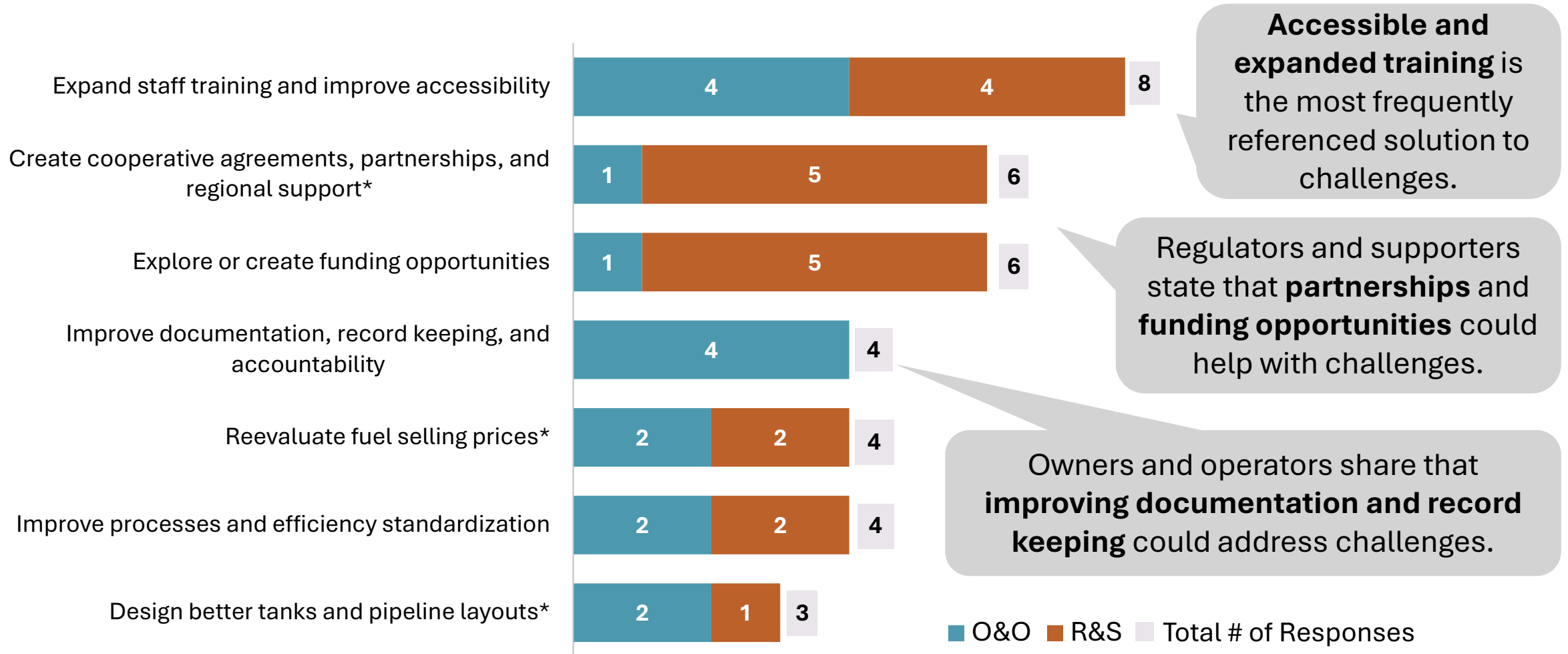
“Better funding for maintenance vs. capital expenses.”

“Coming up with a model that works for a village or aggregate set of villages.”

“Making sure there are people on the ground to manage facilities.”

Q4. What **ideas** do you have for **addressing these challenges**?

Chart displays # of interviews that mentioned the theme; n=26 interviews; * = top theme from 2024 Bulk Fuel Summit



Q14. Is there **anyone else** we should talk to? (* = *mentioned by both groups*)

General Entities

- All the owners and operators
- Engineers/engineering firms
- Fuel providers and barge operators
- Mines operating tank farms
- School districts
- Smaller utilities

Specific People

- Dan Breedon from Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA)
- Jeff from McGrath
- Matt Sweetsir from Ruby Marine
- Jason Brooks from Inside Passage Electric Cooperative (IPEC)
- Carl Andrew from TCSA Electrical Services
- Brett Watson from UAA Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER)
- Matt Richards from the U.S. Coast Guard
- Matt Hobby from the North Slope Borough
- Rebecca Garrett, formerly Alaska Energy Authority (AEA)

Specific Entities

- Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN)
- Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC)
- Angoon tank farm
- Coast Guard
- Alaska Village Electric Cooperative
- Department of Labor State Training and Employment Program
- Hoonah Trading Company
- Kake Tribal Corporation
- Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDCC)
- Northwest Arctic Borough School District (NWABSD)*
- North Slope Borough School District (NSBSD)
- Red Dog Mine and Teck

Q5. Who might lead those potential solutions?

*Displaying recommendations with at least 2 mentions; * = mentioned by both groups*

n=26 interviews

Owners & Operator Recommendations

- **Alaska Energy Authority*** (5 mentions)
- **Alaska Native Corporations*** (3 mentions)
- **Unsure** (3 mentions)
- **Denali Commission*** (2 mentions)

Regulator & Supporter Recommendations

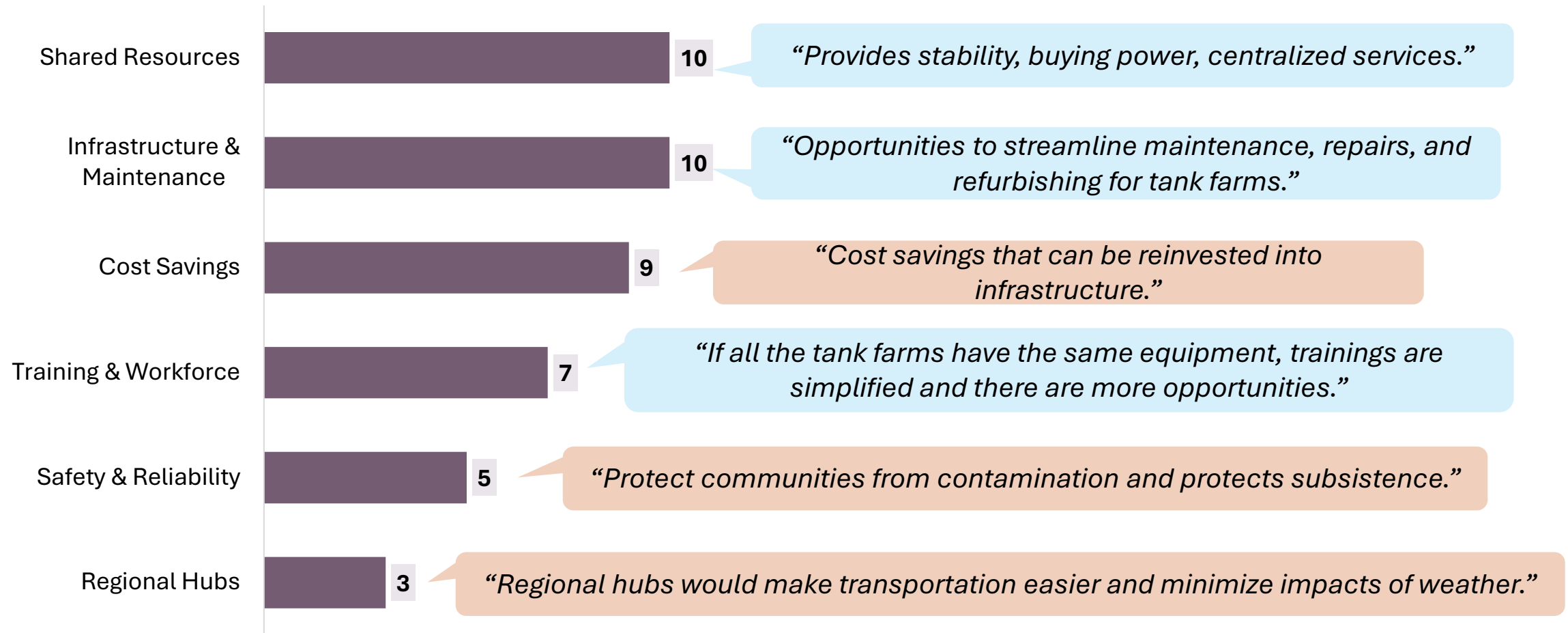
- **Owners and Operators** (4 mentions)
- **Alaska Energy Authority*** (3 mentions)
- **Alaska Native Corporations*** (3 mentions)
- **Regional Entities** (3 mentions)
- **Tribes/ Communities/Villages** (3 mentions)
- **Denali Commission*** (2 mentions)
- **State of Alaska** (2 mentions)
- **Regulators** (2 mentions)

Regulators and supporters were more likely to recommend that **local and regional entities** lead solutions.

Q8. What are the **potential benefits** of bulk fuel aggregation for owners and operators?

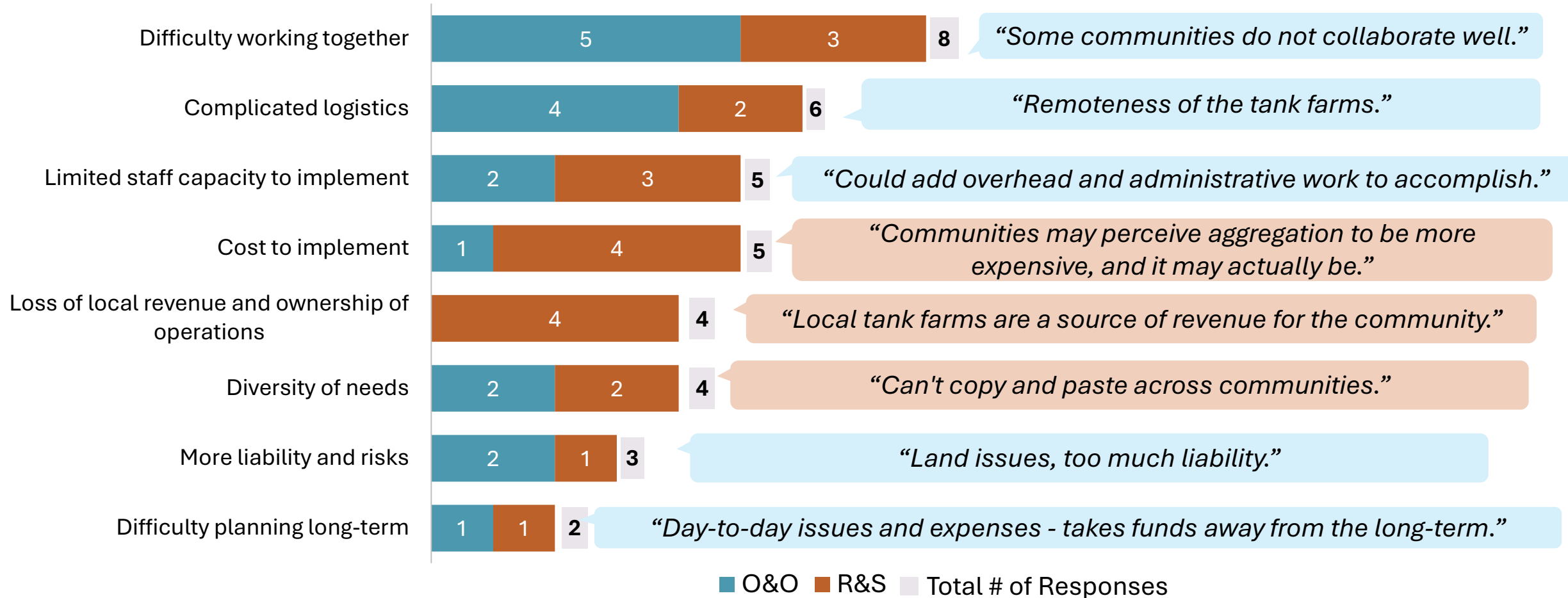
of interviews that mention each benefit; n=26 interviews

Total # of Responses



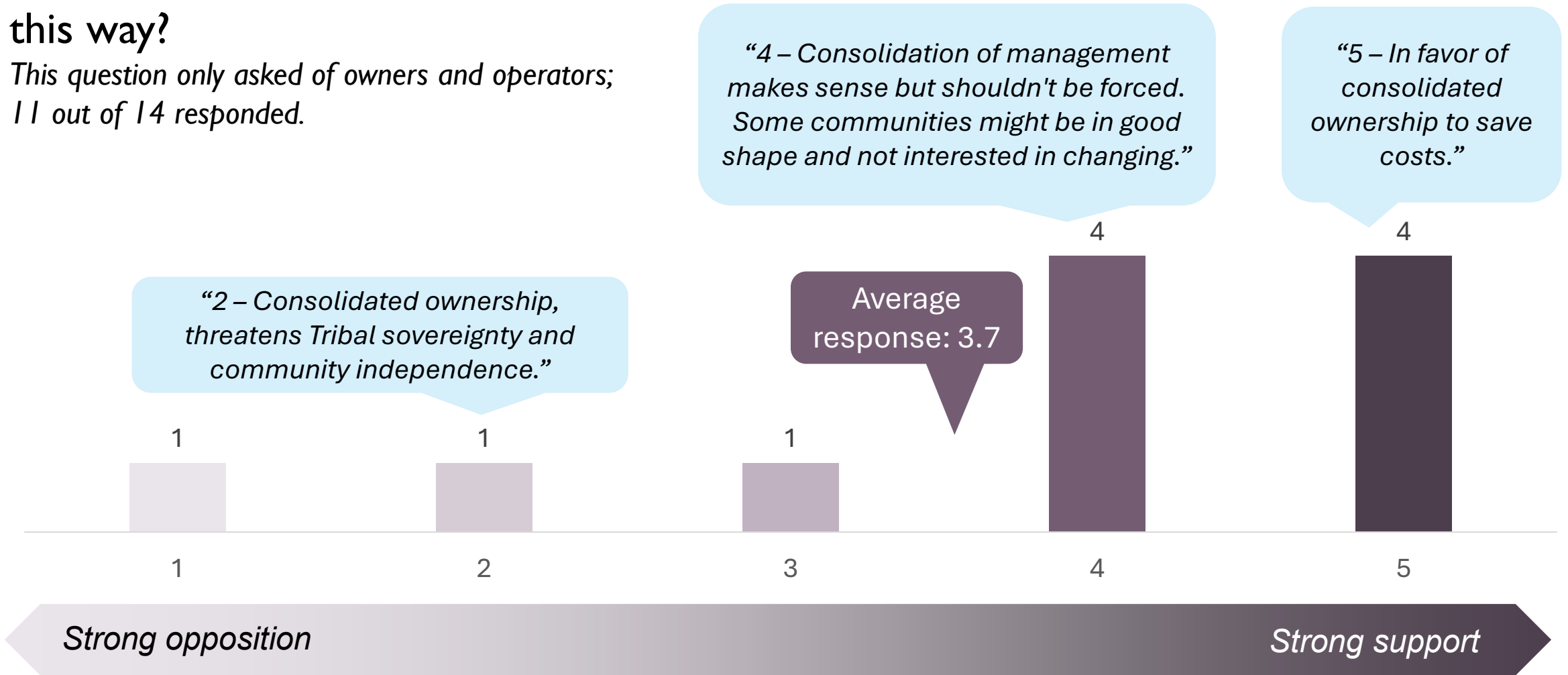
Q9. What might make bulk fuel aggregation **hard to accomplish**? What would get in the way?

of interviews that mention each potential barrier; n=26 interviews



Q9B. On a scale from 1-5 (1 = strong opposition, 5 = strong support), what is your level of support for a consolidated ownership structure? Why did you rate this way?

This question only asked of owners and operators; 11 out of 14 responded.



Q10. As we consider potential bulk fuel aggregation in rural Alaska, what **other locations or entities** can we learn from?

Business Model and Project Examples

- Energy Industry Models*
- Suburban Purchasing Cooperative (SPC) in IL
 - Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) in MA
 - Cook Inlet Regional energy storage as a hub
 - Other projects funded through New Markets Tax Credits at Native American Bank
- Models from Other Industries*
- Cooperative grocery store chain in Canada
 - GCI for broadband in Aleutians
 - Hilcorp + Nuiqsut partnership
 - Alaska Clean Seas
 - North Slope Borough’s Community Winter Access Trail

Places Around the World

- Scandinavia
- Greenland
- Hawaii
- Canada
- Lower 48 energy authorities (2)

Alaska Entities to Learn From

- Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (4)
- Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative (2)
- Rural Utility Business Advisor (2)
- Alaska Energy Authority
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Denali Commission
- School Districts (Bering Straits, Nome City, Yukon Kuskokwim)
- NANA
- NSEDC
- Everts
- Crowley
- Alaska Fuel Storage & Handlers Alliance

Alaskan Communities

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| • Alakanuk | • Lime Village | • Ouzinkie |
| • Brevig Mission | • Napakiak | • Quinhagak |
| • Bristol Bay | • North Slope Borough | • Scammon Bay |
| • Hoonah | • Northwest Arctic Borough | • Shageluk |
| • Igiugig | • Nulato | • Wales |

Q14. Is there **anyone else** we should talk to? (* = *mentioned by both groups*)

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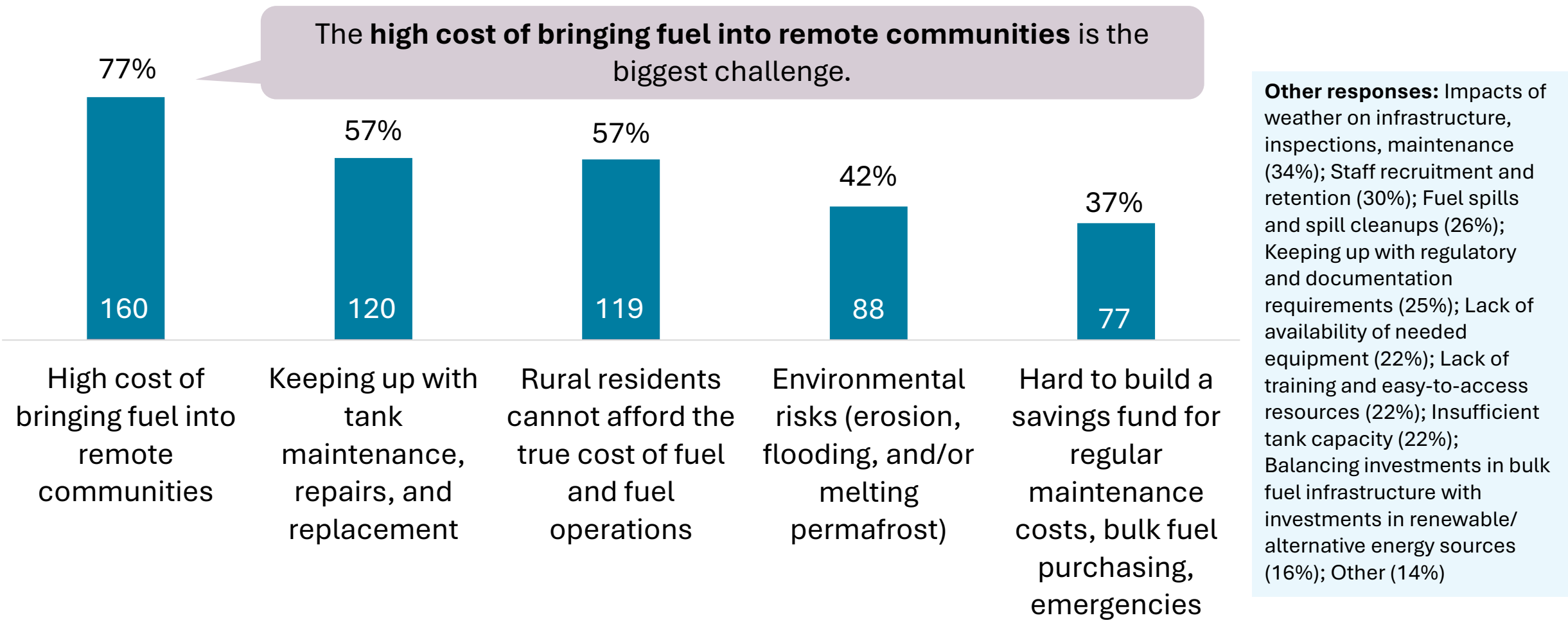
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Survey

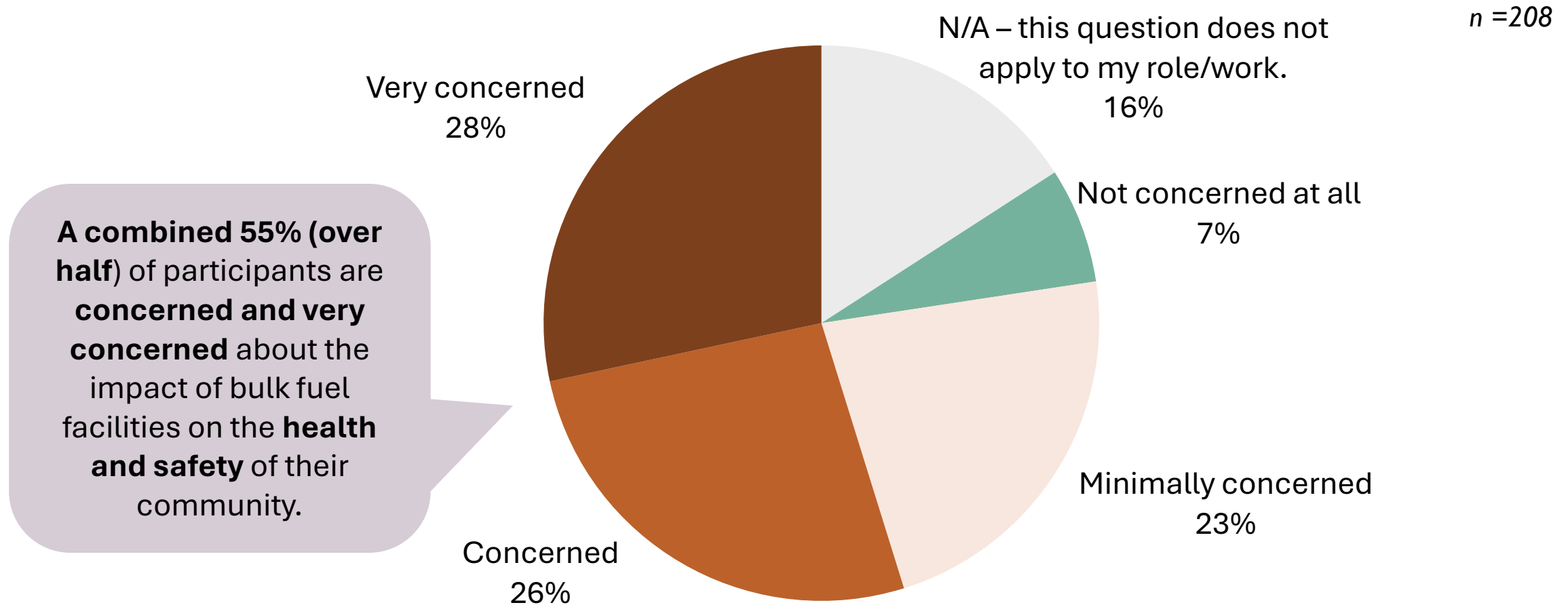
Survey open from March to May 2025; results presented to Study Advisory Groups in June 2025

Q1. What are the **biggest challenges** to rural Alaska’s bulk fuel infrastructure and operations? Please select your top five.

N =209

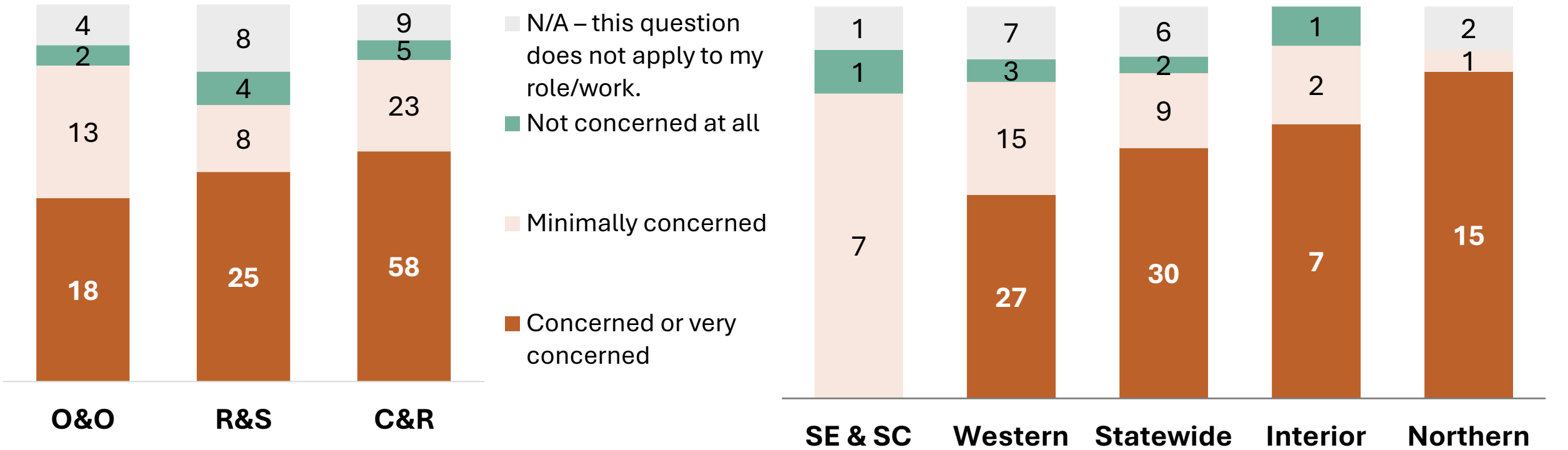


Q2. For the region/communities you work with, overall, how **concerned** would you say community members are with the potential **impact of bulk fuel facilities** infrastructure on the **health and safety** of their community (people, lands, waters)?



Q2. By Entity Type and Location, how concerned would you say community members are on the health and safety of their community?

Reminder: A combined 55% of participants are “concerned” and “very concerned.”



“Concerned” and “very concerned”:

- 61% of Communities & Regions (C&R)
- 56% of Regulators & Supporters (R&S)
- 49% of Owners & Operators (O&O)

- 83% of Northern locations
- 70% of Interior locations
- 64% of Statewide
- 52% of Western locations
- 0% of Southeast (SE) and Southcentral (SC) locations

Q3. Please explain your response to Question #2 (**How concerned** are you with bulk fuel facilities' infrastructure on **health and safety** of the community?)

n = 133

**“Concerned” /
“Very Concerned” (54%)**

“Fuel sellers start rationing fuel sales while the weather is still cold due to not enough capacity for the whole time the weather is cold.” - Tribe

“The price of fuel is unaffordable in the village area.” - Oil Spill Response Organization

“Fuel storage close to Rivers. Fish camps if anything happens.” - Tribe

“Residents are very concerned about the availability of bulk fuel deliveries to our community and the limited capacity we have (currently) for storage.”
– ANC

“If there is a spill the subsistence fishing and hunting will be contaminated with oil, impacting the health of the local population.”
- Anonymous

**Minimally Concerned (23%)
Not Concerned at all (7%)**

“We’ve got a good record of taking care of our tank farm and have not had any spills recently.” - Municipality

“The hardest part is paying for it, not how it is stored.”
– Business Owner

“Bulk Fuel facility is a fenced area with no impacts to community members.” – Fuel Distributor and Municipality

“We have created a bulk fuel tank farm that is equipped with a triple safety net: double hulled tanks, fuel spill containment pad, and a housing unit to keep tanks out of the elements.” - Anonymous

“I haven't had anyone approach me with concerns about refueling or maintenance with my tank farm.” - School District

Q4 & Q6. Listed below are different **aggregation options** that could help address bulk fuel challenges in Rural Alaska. Please share your **level of support** for each option. N=160

1 = Least
Support

2

3

4

5 = Most
Support

Aggregation Options

- A. **Expanded training** for owners, operators, and administrators/managers
- B. **Standardization** of parts and facility design
- C. Centralized **maintenance and training**
- D. Centralized **facility repair and replacement**
- E. Centralized **access to technical resources and technicians**
- F. Centralized **ways to share knowledge** such as mentor and peer networks
- G. Centralized **fuel purchasing and delivery**
- H. Building ongoing maintenance and training **costs into the price of fuel**
- I. Centralized **administration, operations, and bookkeeping**
- J. Centralized **tank farm ownership**

Average

4.22
4.13
4.06
4.06
4.00
3.86
3.76
3.75
3.58
3.39

All aggregation options show some level of support. There is most support for expanded training (4.22 out of 5) and the least for centralized tank farm ownership (3.39 out of 5).

50% of aggregation options were ranked at least a 4 out of 5 for support.

Q4 & Q6. **By Entity Type.** Please share your **level of support** for each aggregation option.

1 = *Least Support*

2

3

4

5 = *Most Support*

In general, there is **little variation by entity** for level of support for aggregation options.

Aggregation Options	n = 160	n = 94	n = 36	n = 43
	Average: All	C&R	O&O	R&S
A. Expanded training for owners, operators, and administrators/managers	4.22	4.14	4.06	4.33
B. Standardization of parts and facility design	4.13	4.06	4.17	4.32
C. Centralized maintenance and training	4.06	3.96	4.09	4.26
D. Centralized facility repair and replacement	4.06	4.01	4.11	4.19
E. Centralized access to technical resources and technicians	4.00	3.82	4.17	4.19
F. Centralized ways to share knowledge such as mentor and peer networks	3.86	3.74	3.82	4.12
G. Centralized fuel purchasing and delivery	3.76	3.83	3.83	3.66
H. Building ongoing maintenance and training costs into the price of fuel	3.75	3.81	3.80	3.79
I. Centralized administration, operations, and bookkeeping	3.58	3.33	3.43	3.63
J. Centralized tank farm ownership	3.39	3.48	3.29	3.39

In general, **Regulators and Supporters** tend to be more supportive than respondents overall.

Q4 & Q6. By Location. Please share your **level of support** for each aggregation option.

1 = *Least Support*

2

3

4

5 = *Most Support*

While there is more variance in perspective by the location an entity serves compared to entity type, in general, **most participants have similar levels of support.**

	n = 160	n = 51	n = 17	n = 10	n = 8	n = 46
Aggregation Options	Average	Western	Northern	Interior	SE SC	Statewide
A. Expanded training for owners, operators, and administrators/managers	4.22	4.08	4.61	4.40	4.00	4.22
B. Standardization of parts and facility design	4.13	4.14	4.28	3.60	4.22	4.35
C. Centralized maintenance and training	4.06	3.96	4.35	3.90	4.13	4.15
D. Centralized facility repair and replacement	4.06	3.96	4.24	3.90	4.38	4.13
E. Centralized access to technical resources and technicians	4.00	3.96	4.06	3.70	4.13	4.18
F. Centralized ways to share knowledge such as mentor and peer networks	3.86	3.9	4.06	3.80	3.78	3.89
G. Centralized fuel purchasing and delivery	3.76	3.71	4.41	3.90	4.14	3.67
H. Building ongoing maintenance and training costs into the price of fuel	3.75	3.66	3.61	3.60	3.44	4.04
I. Centralized administration, operations, and bookkeeping	3.58	3.20	3.56	3.50	3.63	3.70
J. Centralized tank farm ownership	3.39	3.49	3.44	2.88	2.50	3.20

“Centralized tank farm ownership” has the widest range in opinion by entity location.

Q5&Q7. For the aggregation options you "support" or "most support", **who should take the lead** on coordinating and implementing those options?

N = 98 to 109 | Open-ended responses coded for themes | Top three per aggregation option

A. Expanded training (4.22)

- **State of Alaska (49)**
- **Owners & Operators (17)**
- Tribes/Tribal Entities (16)

B. Standardization of parts and facility design (4.13)

- **State of Alaska (46)**
- **Owners & Operators (20)**
- Federal agency (12)

C. Maintenance and Training (4.06)

- **State of Alaska (30)**
- **Owners & Operators (28)**
- Tribes/Tribal Entities (19)

D. Facility Repair and Replacement (4.06)

- **Owners & Operators (33)**
- **State of Alaska (31)**
- Alaska Native Corporations (12)

E. Technical Resources and Technicians (4.00)

- **State of Alaska (42)**
- **Owners & Operators (21)**
- Alaska Native Corporations (15)

F. Ways to Share Knowledge (3.86)

- **State of Alaska (33)**
- **Owners & Operators (27)**
- Tribes/Tribal Entities (15)

G. Fuel Purchasing and Delivery (3.76)

- **Owners & Operators (22)**
- **Alaska Native Corporations (19)**
- **Tribes/Tribal Entities (18)**

H. Building Costs into the Price of Fuel (3.75)

- **Owners & Operators (32)**
- **State of Alaska (26)**
- Tribes/Tribal Entities (12)

I. Administration, Operations, and Bookkeeping (3.58)

- **Owners & Operators (31)**
- Tribes/Tribal Entities (18)
- Municipalities (16)

J. Centralized Tank Farm Ownership (3.39)

- **Owners & Operators (20)**
- Tribes/Tribal Entities (16)
- Alaska Native Corporations (14)

Q5&Q7. By **Entity Type** and **Location** For the aggregation options you "support" or "most support", **who should take the lead?**

By Entity Type

Out of the 10 aggregation options.....

Owners and Operators is one of the top two choices for:

- **80%** of Community & Regions' options.
- **60%** of Owners & Operators' options.
- **80%** of Regulators & Supporters' options.

The **State of Alaska** is one of the top two choices for:

- **70%** Community & Regions' options.
- **90%** of Owners & Operators' options.
- **70%** of Regulators & Supporters' options.

By Location*

Out of the 10 aggregation options.....

Owners and Operators is one of the top two choices for:

- **80%** of Entities Serving Western Regions
- **80%** of Entities Serving Northern Regions

The **State of Alaska** is one of the top two choices for:

- **90%** of Entities Serving Western Regions
- **70%** of Entities Serving Northern Regions

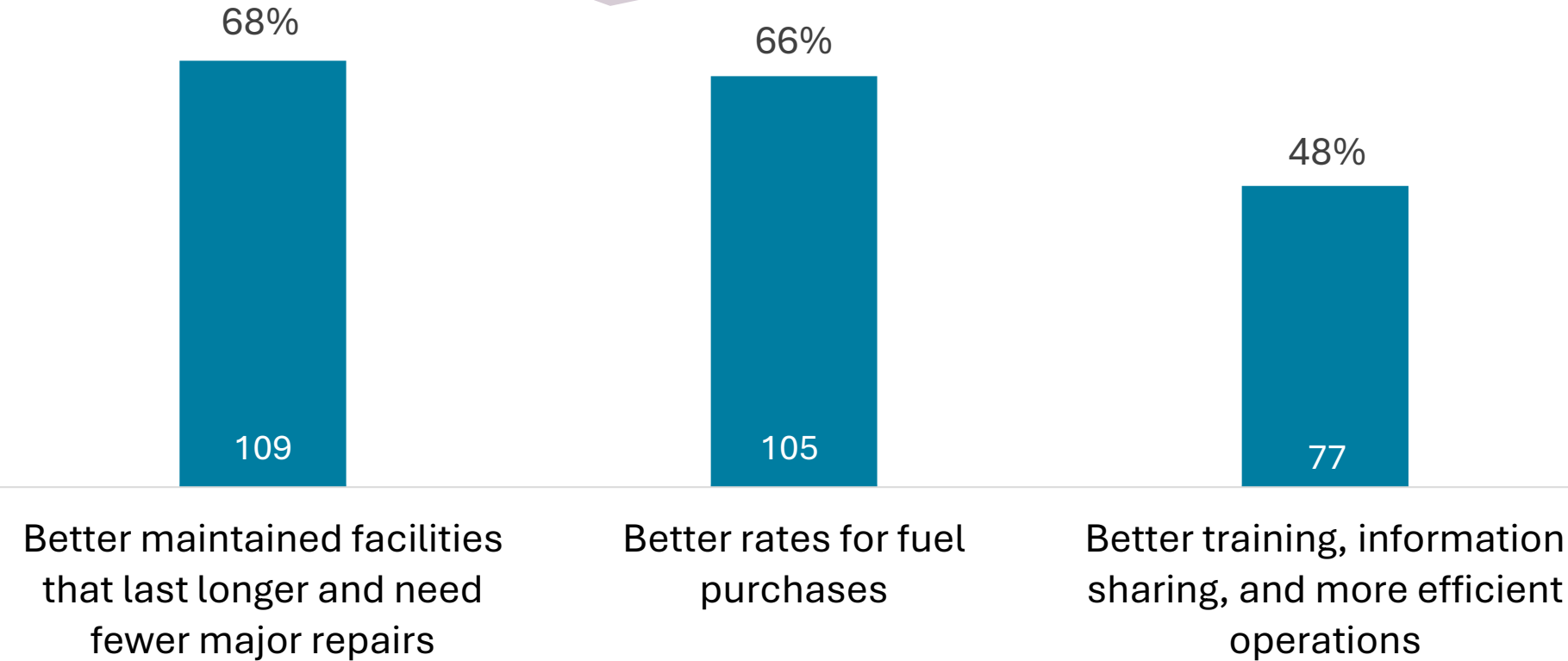
*Only Western and Northern regions are represented due to the small sample sizes for the Interior and Southeast and Southcentral regions.

Overall, the **State of Alaska** and **Owners and Operators** are the **top two recommended leads throughout all aggregation types for all entity types and location.**

Q8. What are the biggest **potential benefits** of aggregation? Please select your top three.

n = 160

Better maintained facilities (68%), better fuel rates (66%), and better training (48%) are the top three potential benefits.

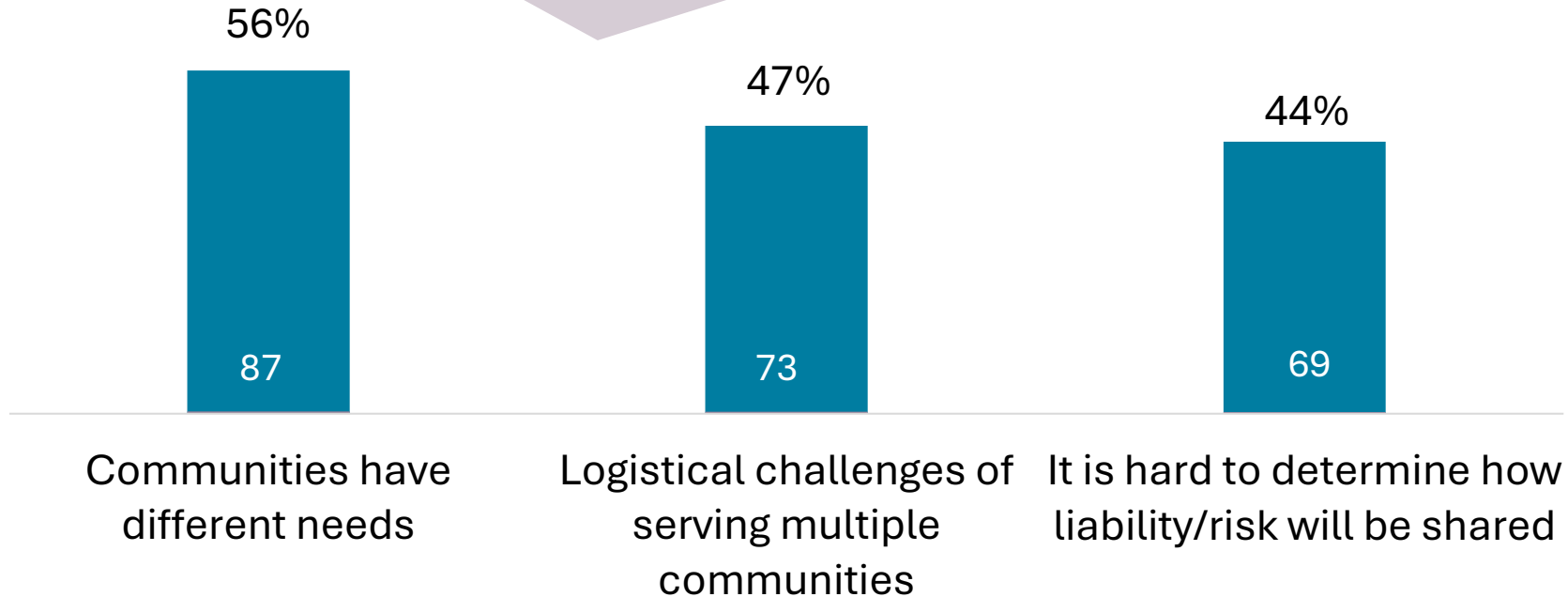


Other responses: Lower costs for repairs and maintenance (39%)
Reduces spill risks and improves community safety(32%); Easier transportation logistics (24%); Shared liability and responsibility (24%); Easier to pay staff fair wages and retain quality staff (20%); More opportunities for innovation (12%); Other (6%)

Q9: What factors could make aggregation **hard to accomplish**? Please select your top three.

n = 156

Communities have different needs (56%), logistical challenges (47%), and determining liabilities and risks (44%) are the top three reasons aggregation is difficult to accomplish.

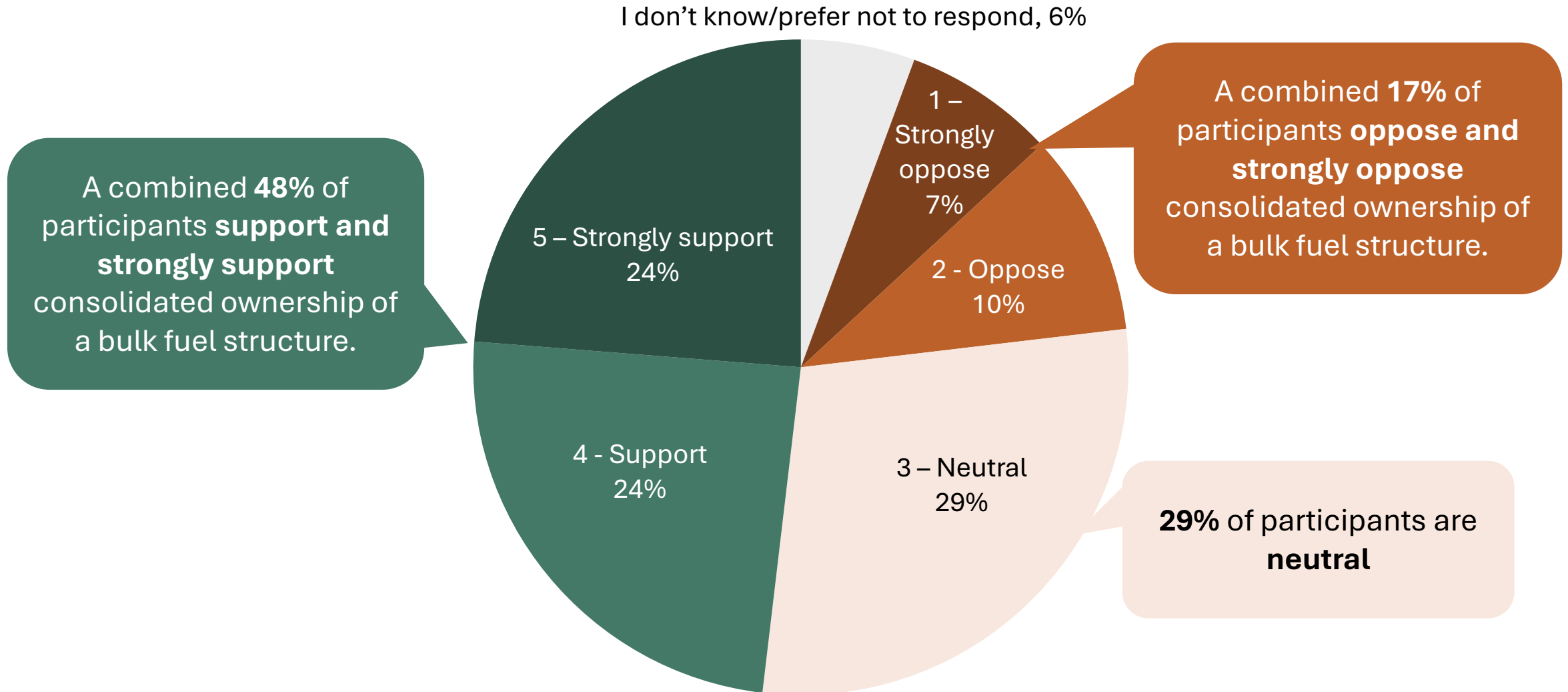


Other responses:

Consolidation requires a big investment to change the current system (41%); Consolidation could limit community independence (32%); Some communities do not work well together (31%); Local tank farms are sometimes an important source of local revenue (31%); Other barriers to aggregation (18%)

Q10. On a scale from 1 to 5, what is your **level of support for consolidated ownership** of bulk fuel infrastructure?

n = 160



Q11. Tell us more – **Why did you select the level of support** you did in question #10? (Consolidated ownership)

Top Themes for Support / Strongly Support (48%)

May help improve **maintenance, upkeep, and repair**

May **improve equity** for smaller communities and access to resources

May help with **cost savings** or **lower the price of fuel**

Could consider **regional or cooperative-style consolidation**

Top Themes for Neutral (29%)

Concern for **local control and independence**

Need **more information / unsure**

Support **depends on details** (e.g., location)

Cost concerns related to aggregation

Themes for Oppose / Strongly Oppose (17%)

Loss of local control / Sovereignty

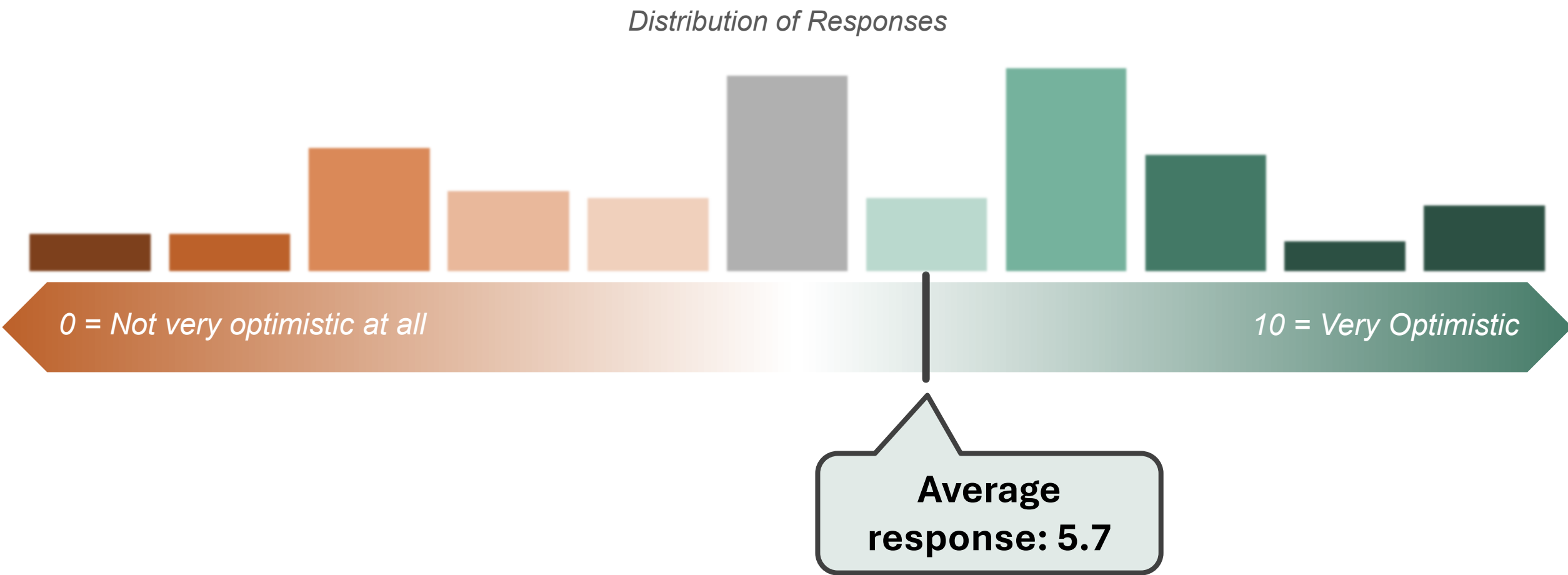
Impractical logistically

Distrust of outside entities

Concerns about **maintenance and staffing**

Q12. **Gut Check!** Use the sliding scale below to indicate **how optimistic** you are that bulk fuel aggregation, in some form, can happen in Rural Alaska, and will address our biggest challenges.

n = 153



Q13. **Why** did you pick the number you did for Question #12 (optimism about aggregation)

n = 153

0 = "Too many different entities and levels of expectations." - Utility Cooperative

3.3= "Feeling pessimistic about being able to secure the seed funding necessary to make some of these large organizational changes." - Alaska State Agency

Average response: 5.7

7.3 = Probably the right thing to do, but will a challenge to get everyone onboard with the idea given all of the factors including cost." - Oil Spill Response Organization

10 = "We are Native people trying our best to live in these changing times." - Tribe

0 = Not very optimistic at all

10 = Very Optimistic

2 = "Not for our village but others that are really close together may be helpful for them." - Anonymous

4.7 = "Seattle Support Center tried to have villages consolidate fuel orders for a consortium, however, if one village drops out it will cause problems for the whole group. You need to have the total support from the villagers for this to work." - Federal Agency

6 = "Logistical differences is hard to enforce proportional costs for communities." - Tribe/Bulk Fuel Operator

8 = "A similar situation existed for electric power 50 years ago. Somewhat similar situation exists for water/sewer, and change has occurred and is occurring." - University

Q14. As we consider potential bulk fuel aggregation in rural Alaska, **what other locations can we learn from?**

n = 103

"ANICA is taking care of villages in the far north, they have successfully taken care of their peoples fuel needs."

"ARUC is a great model."

"Fort Yukon."

"Iceland and Norway."

"Require the Alaska Regional Corporations to work with each village corporation to ensure bulk tank farms are managed like ADEC regulated facilities are regulated."

"AVEC, Horizon Power (in Australia), Nukissiorfiit (in Greenland)."

"Operating entities such as IPEC, AVEC and North Slope Borough."

"Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AVEC) has around 50 facilities across a large region in Alaska. It seems they would have feedback on how they negotiate contracts for that many locations."

"DEC provides training for CESCL (SWPPP). The training highlights federal and state law and helps inform end users of best management practices."

"NSEDG, ANICA for what consolidation takes and the problems to persist."

"Suggest learning from North Slope drilling operations for how changes are implemented safely."

"Dillingham has lower fuel cost due to end users owning the tank farm, i.e., village corps."

"Pribilofs."

"SEAPRO."

"Unalakleet's new bulk tank farm is 'aggregated' but maintains four separate users."

"Rural School Districts."

Q15. What else would you like to share **about your experience** with bulk fuel infrastructure and operations?

n = 104

"A centralized facility that can serve other villages along the waterway would help hard to reach communities for year round access to fuel facilities."

"After built, O & M, staff training is primary to ensure viability."

"Appreciate the assistance from the Alaska Energy Authority and their team of technicians and the online and in-person training available."

"AVTEC has some great learning opportunities for bulk fuel operators."

"BIA nested tanks. So there are three sizes and two nested inside the third... like those Russian wooden doll sets."

"Bulk fuel is not about just storage - it's about timing and risk. If you miss a shipping window, your tanks could sit empty for months. Good operations factor in spill risk, compliance risk, and cost volatility."

"Compliance with local and federal regulations (SPCC, ODPCP, etc) are costly and require continuous effort."

"Engineering for operations and maintenance need to be considered more in the design phase."

"I hate hearing about prices other local entities pay for bulk fuel when the price should be comparable to ours, because there is no competition."

"King Cove is doing it."

"Suggest learning from North Slope drilling operations for how changes are implemented safely."

"Most of the bulk fuel supplies in the villages in our area are owned by fish processors. This needs to change for the fuel security of the village."

"The village of Akhiok is at a point that the partnership with a local cannery is in jeopardy for a way of getting bulk fuel at a low cost. So the community may be at risk of having to find other means of getting bulk fuel and not being able to afford it."

Q16. What else would you like to share that might **help with the study process?**

n = 104

Top Themes	Count	Example Response
Costs, funding, and purchasing	26	“Community may be at risk of [needing] other means of getting bulk fuel and not being able to afford it.”
Local considerations and community ownership in decision-making	21	“The smaller the community the harder to maintain a fuel operation and keeping the fuel affordable.”
Maintaining aging infrastructure	21	“The cost for inspections is beyond prohibitive for most if not all small communities and utilities. Compound that with the mandate to bring a storage tank up to current code after an inspection because a placard is missing.”
Training and staffing capacity	13	“AVTEC has some great learning opportunities for bulk fuel operators.”
Safety and environment	11	“One legacy of fuel storage in Rural Alaska are the weeps, drips and spills from handling fuel. Few entities are willing to assume the liability from past releases, making aggregating existing facilities under one responsible party difficult.”
Fuel delivery is complex	9	Bulk fuel is not about just storage - it's about timing and risk. If you miss a shipping window, your tanks could sit empty for months.”

Alaska Bulk Fuel Study

Small Group Discussions

*Discussions conducted and results presented to Study Advisory Groups
in June 2025*

Small Group Discussions: Purpose and Process

Purpose | Three Small Group Discussions were convened in early June 2025 to:

1. Share results from study outreach and research, identify any gaps in the data or process.
2. Help us learn more about operations and maintenance of tank farm facilities today (e.g., what data is being collected and reported, how are challenges being addressed today).
3. Share perspectives on the aggregation options that emerged as front-runners from the survey results – specifically, learn which seem the most feasible, which may be combined to create a potential scenario or model, what challenges or opportunities might we anticipate.

Capacity Builders and Technical Assistance Providers

- Alaska Center for Energy and Power
- Alaska DCCED, DCRA*
- Alaska Energy Authority*
- Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative*
- Rural Alaska Fuels Service

Owners, Operators, and Community / Regional Organizations

- City of Elim
- Kodiak Area Native Association*
- Tuntutuliak Community Services Association*

Cooperatives

- Alaska Village Electric Cooperative*
- Inside Passage Electric Cooperative*
- Alaska Native Industries Cooperative Association*

Small Group Discussions Summary

Capacity Builders and Technical Assistance Providers

Emerging Aggregation Themes

Centralized ownership, centralized administration, and centralized fuel purchasing/delivery.

Key Takeaways

- Centralized ownership may have most significant impact, but other elements will be needed to maximize effectiveness.
- Interested to hear from owners and operators.
- Support for aggregation options may be informed by what is happening today.

Owners, Operators, and Community / Regional Organizations

Emerging Aggregation Themes

Centralized fuel purchasing/delivery, consolidated ownership, and centralized training.

Key Takeaways

- Centralized fuel purchasing has potential to free up funding for other priorities.
- Consolidated ownership could address compliance, operating costs, and fuel capacity issues.
- Centralized training could reduce costs and address access issues.

Cooperatives

Emerging Aggregation Themes

Centralized training, consolidated ownership, and centralized fuel purchasing

Key Takeaways

- Providing regional training and training support could reinforce key maintenance requirements and improve recordkeeping.
- Reliability and consistency of fuel supply is paramount for the success of any consolidation solution.
- Any consolidation where costs are included for operations, maintenance, repair, and replace will drive prices up.

Alaska Bulk Fuel Study

Events, Forums, and Activities

October 2024 – October 2026

Events, Forums, and Activities

Event	Date	Attendees	Role
AK Energy Conference Bulk Fuel Summit	October 2024, October 2026	Study Project Team	Presentation about Study Slides Summary Virtual Comment Card
USCG Sector Western AK Industry Day	March 2025	R&S SAG Member	Presentation about Study
AK Infrastructure Development Symposium	April 2025	Study Project Team	Presentation about Study Slides
Business of Alaska Rural Energy Virtual Workshop	October 2025	Study Project Team	Presentation about Study Slides
Alaska Municipal League Local Government Conference	December 2025	Study Project Team	Presentation about Study Slides

Members of the project team also shared verbal updates at teleconferences and regional conversations such as the Bulk Fuel Tank Farm Finances Group, the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management, and Northwest Arctic Borough Energy Steering Committee Meetings.

Below: 2024 AK Bulk Fuel Summit Photos & Business Card



Below: 2025 AK Infrastructure Development Symposium Photos

