

I've written elsewhere about how some elements of the Tea Party and the Republican party have made [clear that their goal is not just "reform" of environmental laws, but the elimination of all environmental regulations](#). Dan has noted the [same point](#) in looking at Ron Paul's campaign platform in the last presidential election. Here's another example. Republican Senator David Vitter has developed a [top ten list of the benefits from the government shutdown](#). Five of them involve why it's a good thing that the vast majority of EPA employees were furloughed. Indeed, Vitter explicitly says that it's a good thing that "[a]pproximately 15,000 EPA employees are furloughed."

This is not an extreme view within the Republican party. Vitter is the [ranking minority Republican member](#) of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

(h/t [Matthew Yglesias](#))