we speak about air pollution in the most general and theoretical terms. To me, it is a very personal thing. I invited her and every one of my colleagues, including my colleagues from Wyoming and Idaho and other States, to step forward the next time they visit a classroom in a school and ask a simple question to the students assembled there, a question I ask every time I visit a school. I ask the students: How many of you know someone who is suffering from asthma? Without fail, half of the students or more will raise their hand.

It is a mistake for us to ignore this epidemic of pulmonary disease which is literally claiming lives every single day in our country. It is a mistake for us to ignore the fact that this public health hazard of air pollution makes asthma sufferers suffer even more.

Two weeks ago, I was at the University of Illinois Children's Hospital and met with some of the parents of asthmatic children. It is a heartbreaking situation. I cannot imagine what it is like to be sitting there on the bedside of your daughter or son when they say, I can't breathe. That is the reality of asthma in its worst situation.

Maybe that is not the worst situation. I can recall visiting emergency rooms at children's hospitals in Chicago and having emergency room physicians say, I have had teenagers walk in here and say, I have asthma, I can't breathe, and I sat there and watched them die. There was nothing I could do about it. That is the reality of asthma and pulmonary disease. That is the reality of pollution. And if Senator PAUL and his followers have their way, we will reduce the standards for clean air in America, we will endanger more people with asthma and pulmonary conditions, and we will pay a heavy price—not just in the human suffering and death but in the health care costs associated with it.

Why is it, when the Republicans are asked to come up with a way to create jobs in America, their first stop is to eliminate the EPA? Why is it that the House of Representatives, Republican-dominated House, boasts that they have a jobs bill, and you look and find they on 168 separate occasions this year tried to take away the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency to protect the air and the water that we drink? Is that the path to economic prosperity in America? The filthy skies we see in some cities around the United States and the smog that is attendant to it? And of course, if you go overseas to China, you can cut the air with a knife 24/7. That is the reality of an unregulated business environment. It is a reality we can change. We can change it with thoughtful regulation, we can change it by dedicating ourselves to public health and safety, and we can change it by supporting those rules which are consistent with improving public health.

I want to salute Senator AYOTTE for her statement on the floor. Senator ALEXANDER of Tennessee joined her. We believe there will be a handful of stalwart Republicans who will step forward with us today to defeat the Paul amendment. They believe, as we do, this is not a partisan issue. It does our country no good to declare war on the Environmental Protection Agency and to leave ourselves vulnerable to all the death and disease that will follow if we don't do something meaningful to deal with air pollution. I think we can, and I think we should, and I hope we can do it on a bipartisan basis.

When I listen to the suggestions about creating jobs, I think many on the other side overlook the obvious. When we are looking for more energy efficiency and cleaner energy, we are pushing the envelope on technology. We are asking for innovation, entrepreneurship, and new employment to reach it. It is an exciting opportunity for us across this country.

Two weeks ago I visited a new coal-fired plant in southern Illinois near my home area where I was born. It is across the road from a coal mine, and they have put on that plant $1 billion worth of scrubbers and cleaning devices to reduce air pollution dramatically from where it otherwise would have been in a coal-fired plant. They made the investment because it was the right thing to do, and it is a standard that is moving us forward as a country so we can say to the American people we can produce the energy we need for our economy to create jobs and grow, but do it in a sensible fashion.

If the Republican leadership in the House has its way, the Environmental Protection Agency will all but disappear. Maybe that is their way to expand the economy, but it is not mine. I would rather be creating jobs for energy efficiency and new energy technology right here in the United States, so that we end up with cleaner air and purer water. I would rather do that than watch the RAND PAUL approach pass, and find ourselves creating jobs, sadly, on the backs of those who are suffering from asthma. I don't doubt, if there are more asthmatics, there will be need for more medical professionals, more emergency rooms, more nebulizers, more medical treatment. Those aren't the kinds of jobs we should pointedly try to create. We need those folks, but we shouldn't make their tasks any harder or more difficult by increasing the number of children and young people in America who are suffering from asthma that is the direct consequence of watering down the air pollution laws in a way that Senator PAUL will try to do later today on the floor of the Senate.

Let's have respect for the people who live in this country and the health of their children. Let's vote down this Rand Paul resolution.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

The Republican leader is recognized.

DISAPPROVING A RULE SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RELATING TO THE MITIGATION BY STATES OF CROSS-BORDER AIR POLLUTION UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to S.J. Res. 27.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 27) disapproving a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the mitigation by States of cross-border air pollution under the Clean Air Act.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be 2 hours of debate equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

Who yields time? The Senator from Kentucky is recognized.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise today in support of clean air, clean water, electricity, and jobs. I think we can have a clean environment and jobs, but not if we let this administration continue to pass job-killing regulations. These new regulations will cost over $2 billion, and over the course of a decade or more may well exceed $100 billion. We add these new regulations to over $2 trillion worth of regulations already on the books. The President is adding $10 billion worth of regulations every month, and we wonder—we have 14 million people out of work, 2 million new people out of work since this President took office. Yet we continue to add regulation upon regulation.

So far this year President Obama has added $80 billion worth of new regulations. If this President is serious about job creation, he needs to cease and desist from adding new job-killing regulations. The vote today has nothing to do with repealing the Clean Air Act. I am sure we will hear hysterics on the other side. We will hear from environmental extremists. But this has nothing to do with repealing the Clean Air Act. We have rules in place to control emissions from our utility plants. We are not arguing against that. In fact, we are arguing for continuing the same rules that have been in place for some time.