

have said no to workers in Harrisburg and Columbus and Toledo and Erie and Sharon and Youngstown, so, Madam President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I think both sides understand these should move together as a package, both trade adjustment assistance and the Andean trade preference legislation as well. But let's try something here. We have talked about the arguments back and forth.

I would ask my friend from Wyoming if he would agree to an extension through Mother's Day, which is Sunday, May 8. I would ask him to respond to that request.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. What you have just heard is another objection. They object to another short period of time. Let me go through it again. They object to a 4½ month extension, they object to an 18-month extension, and now they object to an extension through Mother's Day. I do not think it is asking that much to go from here to May 8.

I do not think we are helping the economy at a very difficult time when there is objection after objection. But I hope the American people understand what is at stake here in the midst of a still recovering and for some people still—for many people I should say; millions of people—a horrific economic circumstance.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

LINCOLN'S FAREWELL SPEECH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to recognize the work of organizers in Springfield, IL, who are kicking off the national Civil War Sesquicentennial observation by reading President Abraham Lincoln's "Farewell Address" on the 150th anniversary of its original delivery. The speech will be reenacted in Springfield and individuals across the Nation are invited to join them online for a simultaneous reading of it. Organizers hope to set a Guinness World Record for the most people reading aloud from the same document simultaneously.

This year marks the sesquicentennial of two momentous chapters in our national history: President Abraham Lincoln's inauguration and the beginning of the Civil War. Two years ago, we celebrated the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth. As part of that earlier celebration, the Library of Congress displayed a remarkable collection of Lincoln artifacts. They included copies, written in Lincoln's own hand, of his first and second inaugural ad-

resses and his immortal Gettysburg Address. Also included was a copy of President Lincoln's poignant "Farewell Address" to Springfield, his adopted home, on February 11, 1861. More than a thousand residents came out that day to wish Mr. Lincoln goodbye as he headed to Washington to become President. He delivered his remarks extemporaneously:

My friend—No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe every thing. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being, who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him, who can go with me, and remain with you and be every where for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

President Lincoln, of course, did not live long enough to help write all of the chapters of American history that he had hoped for us. It has fallen to each generation of Americans since him to take up that pencil and write the next chapters: the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act . . . the first African American president, another lanky lawyer from Illinois. But we know there are chapters that still need to be written.

I urge my fellow Senators to join me in recognizing the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln's first inauguration, even as people in Springfield and around the country recite his Farewell Address.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I regret having missed the February 8 vote to consider an amendment to the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act. I was celebrating the joyous occasion of my newest grandson's birth with my wife and children.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of Senator NELSON's amendment to strike section 605. Section 605 would have established an advisory committee on aeronautics, but such a committee is not necessary because NASA already plays that role.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of Senator NELSON's amendment preventing the establishment of an extra advisory committee for NASA.

It is ironic that in his recent State of the Union Address, President Obama spoke of needing a "sputnik" moment to push America forward while the administration is supporting actions that complicate and weaken NASA and outsource its core capabilities.

Why should we transfer the responsibility for deciding how to affect aeronautics research from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the responsible agency? NASA provides the Nation's fundamental aeronautics research capability and any further dilution of its capabilities will negatively impact not only our research and development abilities but America's future space missions.

Furthermore, the advisory committee's function would directly and adversely affect the separate authorization of appropriations, Public Law 109-155, for NASA, wherein the Agency's lead role in civil aeronautics research was reaffirmed—Sec. 411.

This is why I voted in favor of Senator NELSON's amendment, which passed by a vote of 96 to 1. It is good that the formation of this committee has been struck by the Nelson amendment. The proposal has not been fully considered. It is unwise and goes against what Congress has already established.

I strongly believe it is of critical importance for the United States to maintain our competitive edge in human space exploration and civil aeronautics research. We should not abandon our position as an international leader in human space exploration. Creating another bureaucracy, blurring lines of responsibility and complicating decisionmaking by the responsible agency, NASA, will not be a step forward.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JAMES BOYD

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to speak today about the noble service of a great American from the State of Alabama, Mr. James Boyd. Mr. Boyd serves the city of Anniston as a police officer and has served as a civilian adviser to the Afghan Police Force in Khost and Kabul, Afghanistan, from November of 2009 to November of 2010. He is currently featured in the laudable project "100 Faces of the War Experience." This exhibition displays portraits and brief stories of those who have served in the multitude of possible ways in the theatres of war. The portraits are not for sale and not done at any cost to the participants. Mr. Boyd's story is as follows:

January 7th was the day of my war experience. I was embedded with the U.S. military in Afghanistan, advising the Afghan border police. We returned to our combat outpost at 3:20 PM after a supply mission. Right away I noticed that the local border police we lived with were all but gone and my police instinct immediately told me something was wrong. My partner and I were talking to the Lieutenant and Sergeant outside our building and decided to change into cold weather gear for the night. Just as it got dark, we started receiving heavy enemy gunfire; it was relentless and was all at head level. I could hear the Sergeant yelling, "Incoming!" A suicide bomber drove a 4,000 lb vehicle-