

to go back in, and with a great sense of pride and respect as well as confidence that this is going to continue to be a small family-owned business, they are going to reforest and they are going to reinvest in that forest product and that timber company.

By enacting the timber tax provision, Congress will forestall a further decline, and we will allow forest products companies to make their decisions based exclusively on sound business principles—not looking at what they have been backed into a corner to do in order to simply keep their business or to simply keep one piece of their business. They will lay off the jobs, they will break up the integrated company, and they will move on because it is easier and because it keeps them alive—as opposed to making good, sound, principled business decisions.

Without its passage, I fear the State of Arkansas will see further immediate closures and loss of jobs. I plead with my colleagues, we cannot lose this opportunity. We cannot lose this opportunity to take something that we have looked at and talked about and developed over the last 10 or so months. We have seen it in other packages, and we know how productive it can be. I hope the majority of this body will join me in seeking a collaborative effort to make sure that we do not see even what the current map would look like if this one were updated, or to think of what it may look like 5 or 10 years from now, with the incredible loss of jobs in timberland and our family-owned timber businesses. It would be devastating.

I thank my colleagues for their attention to this issue. I plead with them on behalf of the people of Arkansas, those unbelievably hard-working families who live in those rural communities, who know our forests and know how to take good care of them: Please let us work to keep those jobs and to keep those businesses going in order that we can not only save those jobs but save a way of life in parts of rural America, as well as making sure that we have the best interests of our forest lands at heart, private forests and others. I think we have a great opportunity to do it, and I hope we will act on that.

TRIBUTE TO J.B. HUNT

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today, joining my colleague Senator PRYOR, as we pay tribute to the life of one of Arkansas's business and philanthropic giants: Mr. J.B. Hunt. The billion dollar trucking company that J.B. Hunt built can only be characterized as the very personification of the American dream, and the only thing more impressive than the trucking empire he has created is the life he led and the journey he took to get there.

I am so grateful to have known this wonderful man and to have called him my friend. From the moment you met

J.B. Hunt, you knew he was not your typical business mogul. He was much more. He was much like all of these hardworking Arkansans whom I reflect on this map.

J.B. Hunt's formal education ended when he dropped out of school at 12 years of age when, similar to many people of the Great Depression and that generation, he had to find employment to help his family survive. That is what we are talking about, we are talking about American families who are working hard to reach that dream. Here is a man who did.

Every time I was able to be around J.B. Hunt, I always knew he never forgot that challenging period of his life, and its impact helped shape the character of the man who would put in the hard work and long hours to get the job done right. When I first heard the news of his passing, I reflect on our first meeting. He asked about me, came up to me, and he said: Now, BLANCHE, who are your people anyhow? Of course that meant, Who are your relatives? Who are your parents? Where do you come from?

He immediately recalled that he had come to know my father from the time he spent personally hauling rice loads across the State of Arkansas. Mr. Hunt reminisced that those were back in the days when he had just one truck. And I thought then that not only was J.B. Hunt a man who was proud of what his company had become, but he appreciated the time and the hard work that had been required to get there. He knew more than just where his trucks traveled, he knew the people along the way. Although J.B. Hunt is considerably larger today—any of our colleagues who travel across the interstates will see a J.B. Hunt truck from Lowell, AK,—Mr. Hunt himself never changed who he was as an individual. His dedication reached well beyond his company to many philanthropic efforts that continue to greatly benefit our State of Arkansas.

True to form, J.B. Hunt dedicated much more than millions of dollars—he dedicated considerable amounts of his time. Until his death, he remained a man who was willing to put in the hard work and the long hours to do the job right—and Arkansas is a far better place as a result.

I am certainly grateful to have had his friendship and to pay tribute to the life he led so well. My thoughts and prayers and my deepest sympathies are with his family at this very difficult time, and my gratitude goes out to Mr. Hunt, who truly exemplified that it is not just the view at the top, it is truly the journey that gets you there that is worth more than anything that you could get in return.

I yield the floor for my colleague, Senator PRYOR, from Arkansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I wish to talk about the two same subject matters that the senior Senator from Ar-

kansas talked about, in that order. I do want to talk about J.B. Hunt, but first I want to talk about the timber tax.

Before I do, I ask unanimous consent for Senator DEWINE to have 1 hour to finish his remarks, after the conclusion of the remarks of the junior Senator from Tennessee, who I understand is the last speaker in this sequence this evening.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, let me notify the staff, Senator DEWINE said he would certainly be flexible, if someone needed some time and needed to maybe cut in a little bit. He was certainly willing to work with whoever wanted to do that, but he did ask we seek unanimous consent for 1 hour.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE TIMBER TAX

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, if I may, let me talk about this timber tax issue. Clearly, forests provide a lot of jobs for many people all over this country. For Arkansas, those jobs are very important to our State's economy. But also one thing that we often forget is these forests are extremely good for our environment. They absorb carbon dioxide, they clean waterways, they provide natural habitat for all kinds of species out there, and they help keep an ecological balance in our country.

One of the great developments that has occurred in the last generation is that this country and the people in the timber industry have become much better, much more adept at managing the forests in a very good, long-term business way but also in a great way for the Nation's environment. In fact, when you look at Arkansas, the timber industry has done such a good job there that it is now the No. 2 manufacturing industry in the State.

I know that is the same in other States. There are many States that have very large timber industries, but we oftentimes take it for granted. I am looking around this room and seeing all the wood products. I am reading on one now and using one as a file folder and speaking behind one and standing on one. Often we take that for granted, but the wood products industry is very important for this country. In fact, you could say it helped build this country.

Unfortunately, now the forestry industry, the wood products industry's health is in jeopardy. They have two major problems. No. 1, with globalization, they have a lot of foreign competition. The folks I talk to in the industry, they will understand that. They are ready to meet that challenge. They understand it is a new day and it is very competitive. They are getting a lot of pressure from places such as Canada and rain forest timber and materials that are coming out of Asia and Russia, and they understand that. They are willing to fight that fight if the playing field is leveled.