

**The Honorable Shelley C Chapman**

**One bowling Green**

**Courtroom 621**

**New York, New York 10004-1408**

**Regarding: Patriot Coal Bankruptcy**

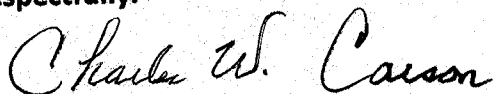
**Your Honor,**

**I'm writing to explain to you how dependant we are on continuing in this health care plan that Patriot Coal promised to provide to us when they purchased Arch Coal. I worked thirty four years to have this health care and drug plan. I knew when I was young that this health and drug plan was worth much more to my retirement than my hourly wages were and that's why I stayed in the coal industry. We are now faced with losing this benefit at a time in our lives when my wife and I are financially unable to purchase this coverage as we both are unable to work to increase our income to maintain a health plan like this. We, as most coal mine retirees, live off our social security that we paid into, I might add: and my UMWA pension. Afer working for some thiry years no one should have to lose the benefits they worked so hard for.**

**I am insulin dependant and have beginning kidney failure, and heart issues. Many of my fellow workers are on chemo therapy or radiation as I was. Can you imagine what our medical bills are, and now we are faced with trying to find health and drug coverage we cannot afford. How can people our age be expected to go back into the work force where even young healthy people find it impossibile to find work?**

**I implore you to find it in your heart to have mercy on us and help us keep the benefits we worked so hard for.**

**Respectfully.**



**Charles W. Carson**