

## Michael & Shirley Oates

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The Honorable Shelley C. Chapman  
One Bowling Green  
Courtroom 621  
New York, New York 10004-1408

Dear Honorable Shelley C. Chapman,

I am writing this to voice my concerns about the suit of Patriot Coal vs. United Mine Workers Union. I have worked for Peabody Coal Company for twenty-three years and was then changed to Patriot Coal Company for the last three years before retirement. Of this total of twenty-six years I worked with the promise of health insurance and miners pension from cradle to grave.

I have had two heart bypass surgeries and other heart related problems. There is no way myself and my wife could afford or even be able to get health insurance with my past medical records. My prescriptions medications are around 2,000.00 per month plus the prescriptions my wife has to have.

Please understand that this suit could bankrupt my family plus affect 20,000 other retired miners. I don't understand how Peabody Coal Company could use its workers for that many years and just write them off to keep from standing up to their responsibilities that was promised by contract.

Sincerely,

*Michael and Shirley Oates*

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Local Union# 2470