

To: The Honorable Shelley C. Chapman
From: Terry Lee Weaver
Re: Patriot Bankruptcy

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing concerning the upcoming ruling concerning moving the Patriot-UMWA hearings from New York to Charleston, W.Va.

This bankruptcy and decisions which may result from it is a great concern to retired miners and their dependants such as myself.

I have been a miner for 37 years, retired from Patriot with my pension and health card for life, at least that's what I thought. This is a fact stated in all contracts since I became a miner. This is what all union miners plan for all their lives, the security of knowing their health needs will be taken care of when they retire.

Health issues for miners and their families are probably some of the worst in the country because of the area and conditions we work in.

As for myself and my wife, we depend on our medical card and pension to pay our medical bills and medicine.

I have Chronic COPD with bronchitis & emphysema, Chronic arthritis, blood pressure problems and Chronic psoriasis on my hands and feet. All of these illnesses require numerous doctor visits and prescriptions. My wife has a heart condition along with other problems. I cannot stress enough how this bankruptcy could affect our health, because without these benefits, we will not be able to get the treatment we desperately need.

Contracts should be binding as any other ruling you or anyone else makes.

I'm just asking you to consider the thousands of people who will be affected by this ruling.

Please send these hearings back to the Coal fields where the people affected live and work.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely

Terry Lee Weaver
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