

October 4, 2012

Robert L. Sherrod  
PO Box 9  
Mullens, WV 25882

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

Your Honor,

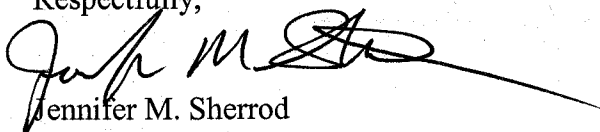
I am writing on behalf of my father, Robert L. Sherrod, District 17 Local Union 1503, retired. He was a union coal miner for over 30 years, employed by Peabody/Eastern Associated Coal Company for most of his career, the last few under the newly formed Patriot Coal. In the late seventies he moved his family to the coalfields of southern West Virginia from Cleveland, OH in order to find a stable job with decent pay and benefits to support his wife and children as the jobs fled the urban centers of Ohio.

He has sustained many injuries over the years as a coal miner, and the effects of cumulative injuries to his back, his ankles, his knees and his hands would make it nearly impossible to work a steady 8 hour shift. He knew the work was hard, but counted on the contract between himself and his employer that stated he would have a pension and health care for himself and his spouse upon his retirement. Both of my parents have high blood pressure and severe arthritis, in addition my mother sees several specialists for screening for recurring melanomas, a heart condition and kidney and bladder disorders. Without the health care benefits provided by the company over the years, my parents may have been bankrupted by medical bills.

During the course of a 30 year career in the coal mines, my father as a Union miner voted upon several contracts with Peabody/Patriot Coal, all of which guaranteed his pension upon retirement for the years he put in, and health care for himself and his family. Both sides agreed upon these issues, and my father held up his end, he put in years of work on night shift, day shift, working weekends and sacrificing time with his family to do hard dangerous work so that he and his wife would have guaranteed income as they aged.

I respectfully ask that you strongly consider moving the Patriot Coal Bankruptcy case to Charleston, WV, to the heart of the coal mining industry that this ruling will so greatly affect. It seems wholly unfair to have the case heard so far away from the people it matters to the most. I feel that the representatives of Patriot should have to see first hand the number of people that are affected by this filing for Bankruptcy and threat to their promised pension and health care benefits.

Respectfully,

  
Jennifer M. Sherrod