

Brenda K. Hoffman
413 N Walnut St.
Huntingburg, IN 47542

Honorable Judge Shelly C. Chapman
1 Bowling Green, Court Room 621
New York, New York 10004-1408

Dear Judge Chapman,

My name is Brenda K. Hoffman and I am writing in regard to the bankruptcy case of Patriot Coal. The outcome of this case will directly affect me, as I am a recipient of the benefits of the health insurance that was promised to my husband and myself until our death, by Peabody Coal Company, Lynnville Mine, Lynnville, IN.

My husband, Glen R. Hoffman, was an employee of Peabody Coal Company for 26 years. He worked hard and earned a good wage and good benefits for his family until the mine was closed. This forced him to look for a new job at the age of 57, which was not an easy task. This closure also caused him to lose money on his pension and social security payments. The one good thing that we had to hold on to was the insurance benefits that were promised to us.

While I realize that Patriot Coal has a financial burden that needs to be relieved, I believe that they should have to stand by their promise to the workers that made this company what it is. Even though Patriot Coal is filing bankruptcy, it is only a small part of a much larger group of companies started by Peabody Energy, that continue to be successful. The fact that this bankruptcy is being filed in the state of New York, where none of the companies affected by this suit have operated, shows that Patriot Coal and Peabody Energy are not being honest in their efforts to keep the promises that they made to their former employees.

Your Honor, please keep Patriot Coal and Peabody Energy honest to their employees and force them to continue to provide the health benefits that they promised. My husband and many others gave years of blood, sweat, and tears for the company only to have their union mines closed and reopened five years later as non-union mines with a different name. Peabody Energy took away our jobs and livelihoods; please don't allow them to take our health insurance too!

UMWA wife,



Brenda K. Hoffman

