

Dear Madam:

I am writing pertaining to the current Patriot Bankruptcy Case.

My husband was employed by Peabody Eastern from Patriot Coal for 34 years. He retired under Patriot in 2008. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in 2008. Also in 2008 and 2010 he had spinal fusion surgery due to Degenerative Disc Disease. His back was just worn out.

He pushed himself to go to work everyday, before we knew his diagnosis. His co-workers dressed him for his shift everyday. These men are hard working and loyal to their companies & co-workers. My husband gave his life to these companies who now want to acknowledge they are not responsible for their healthcare.

There are so many men who are now ill and suffering due to the years they gave to these companies!

My husband, as I said previously, has been diagnosed with Parkinson's. People do not understand that his activities of daily living are limited and very difficult. His Medications are very expensive and there are many.

Also there are medications and appointments due to the Degenerative Disc Disease. His illness has been confirmed (Parkinson's) to

be environmentally induced due to the glue and foam spaks and chemicals he worked with in the coal industry. He has been seen at Duke University, UVA and a Parkinsons Movement Specialist who agree that this is most probable.

We are very hard working people who have worked and saved to give our children a future other than the coal industry. My son is now completing his residency in Neurology and we are very proud.

We have watched so many loved ones and friends suffer with Black Lung Disease which my husband also has at age 55. In order for him to receive the care he needs and will need, we need healthcare. There are days when he doesn't leave the bed, there are days we battle the Parkinsons and I can assure you he has not and will not quit up.

The Physicians & Specialists say he needs a surgery (Deep Brain Stimulation) to produce enough (dopa-el dopa) to help him possibly walk again without the (so called freeze-ups). This happens

daily, where walking and movement is very difficult.

I watch him fight this disease everyday, but to survive he needs treatment and medications.

This Bankruptcy Case is due to a spin off of a small company they created. All the men knew at that time this was a probable scenario we are seeing played out at this time.

I can only pray and hope that you agree that all the men deserve the healthcare they were promised.

Thank you!
Debra K. Shumate
Keith A. Shumate

I wrote this letter for my husband because he can no longer write legible.