

October 4, 2012

The Honorable Shelley C. Chapman
One Bowling Green
Courtroom 621
New York, New York 1004-1408

Re: Patriot Bankruptcy

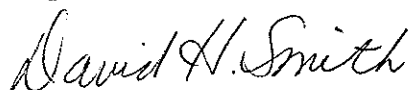
Dear Judge Chapman:

This letter is to inform you of what a hardship it will be for all the retirees of Peabody Coal Company AKA Patriot Coal to lose their health benefits. Most of these coal miners never worked a day for Patriot Coal. Peabody was allowed to transfer our health benefits to their newly formed Patriot Coal Company four or five years ago so that they could run that company into early bankruptcy and in turn get rid of this expense.

Having life time health care was a benefit that was earned by all of these retirees. It seems like the fair thing to do is shift these responsibilities back to the original coal company. Peabody Coal Company is still the strongest, largest coal mining company in the United States. They should be responsible.

Thank you for reading this letter and taking it into consideration when deciding this bankruptcy proceeding.

Respectfully,



David H. Smith
Retired from Peabody Coal Company, Lynnville Mine, Lynnville Indiana
107 N. 8th Street
Boonville, IN 47601

Cc: United Mine Workers of American