

Shirley Merrell
P.O. Box 182
White Plains, KY 42464
270-676-3775

October 4, 2012

Hon. Shelley C. Chapman
One Bowling Green
Courtroom 621
New York, NY 10004-1408

Re: Peabody Patriot Coal bankruptcy

Hon. S. Chapman:

I am writing to you out of concern for myself and others should Peabody Coal be allowed to drop insurance benefits which are rightly due to all miners that have worked for Peabody Coal Company.

My husband began his career in mining in 1950's. At that time, the hard working miners agreed to work under the "Cradle to Grave" agreement where they were paid lower wages, paid in union dues and thus benefited from having the peace of mind that our families would always be provided health coverage.

He provided for his family for many years through Peabody Coal before he became the victim of a mining accident. He suffered back injuries and had to have two back surgeries which prohibited him from ever returning to work not only in the mines but any occupation.

As numerous other families, if Peabody Coal is allowed to discontinue health coverage through bankruptcy, I will no longer be able to afford my medication.

Please give careful consideration to your decision and the impact that it could have on many families and communities.

Best Regards,
Shirley Merrell
Widow of Chapman Merrell

