

JAN 14, 2013
HONORABLE KATHY A. SURRETT-STATES
RE: CASE NO. 12-51502

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER IN REGARDS TO THE BANKRUPTCY HEARING OF PATRIOT COAL CORP., THAT IS DUE TO BE HELD IN YOUR COURT. I AM 71 YEARS OLD AND HAVE WORKED IN THE COAL FIELDS FOR 26 YEARS AND TOOK MY RETIREMENT WHEN THE LAST MINE THAT I WORKED CLOSED ITS DOORS AND THAT WAS IN 1995. DURING THOSE 26 YEARS, I WORKED FOR BOTH FREEMAN COAL CO. AND PEABODY COAL CO., AND WAS ABLE TO SUPPORT MY FAMILY ON MY EARNED WAGES AND HEALTH BENEFITS THAT WERE NEGOTIATED BY THE UMWA AND BCOA. I WAS PROMISED A PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, AFTER HAVING SERVED THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF YEARS TO QUALIFY. AS OF NOW I RECEIVE CLOSE TO SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS A MONTH IN PENSION AND HAVE THE HEALTH BENEFITS AS A SECONDARY INSURANCE TO MEDICARE...

IF PATRIOT COAL IS ALLOWED TO RELINQUISH THESE BENEFITS THAT WERE PROMISED TO US, I FRANKLY DON'T KNOW HOW MY WIFE AND I CAN SURVIVE. WE COUNT ON MY SMALL PENSION AND THE HEALTH BENEFITS THAT WERE PROMISED TO US ALONG WITH SOCIAL SECURITY, TO EKE OUT A LIVEABLE EXISTANCE, AND ALTHOUGH MEDICARE TAKES CARE OF MUCH OF OUR MEDICAL NEEDS, THE COST OF OUR MEDICINES IS SUBSTANTIAL.

ALL WE ASK IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE OUT THE REST OF OUR LIVES IN RELATIVE PEACE AND SECURITY...

SINCERELY,


WILLIAM PIERCE

910 E. ELM ST.
TAYLORVILLE IL. 62568

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Hon. Kathy A. Sumatt - States

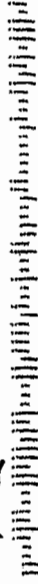
RE: Case 12-57502


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