

HONORABLE KATHY A. SURRATT-STATES
RE: CASE NO. 12-51502
THOMAS F. EAGLETON U.S. COURT HOUSE
111 SOUTH 10TH STREET, 4TH FLOOR
ST. LOUIS, MO. 63102

RECEIVED & FILED
JAN 1 0 2013
U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

YOUR HONOR,

WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU WHY PATRIOT COAL SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION, WHEN THIS DECISION WOULD DO GREAT HARM TO SO MANY PEOPLE. THESE PEOPLE ALL HAVE LIVES THAT WOULD BE GREATLY HARMED AND ALTERED IF THIS BANKRUPTCY IS ALLOWED TO STAND.

WITH THE HOPE THAT A LITTLE PERSONAL HISTORY WILL HELP - HERE GOES -

I STARTED WORKING FOR U.S. COAL & COKE IN LYNCH (HARLAN CO.) KY. IN NOVEMBER, 1948. I JOINED THE U.M.W.A. AT THAT TIME AND I AM STILL A MEMBER. IN THE ENSUING YEARS THE CORP. CHANGED ITS NAME - ENDING UP BEING U.S. STEEL. IN 1984 ALL THE HOLDINGS WERE SOLD TO ARCH OF KY. WE WERE ASSURED AT THE TIME THAT THE CONTRACT AND ALL PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS WOULD BE HONORED AND KEPT.

I RETIRED IN JUNE, 1994, ONE MONTH SHY OF TURNING AGE 68 ONLY BECAUSE ARCH OF KY. CLOSED THE COAL PREPARATION PLANT AT WHICH I WORKED. SOMETIME AFTER 1994 ARCH OF KY. BECAME PATRIOT COAL.

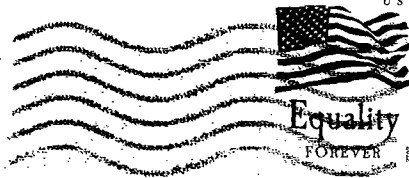
I SINCERELY FEEL AND THINK THAT A COMPANY SHOULD HONOR AND KEEP ALL ITS PROMISES AND COMMITMENTS ON THEIR OWN BUT IF THEY DON'T THEY SHOULD BE COMPELLED TO.

SINCERELY,
Thomas F. Eagleton



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