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JAN 17 2013

I

Your Honor

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

I am a concerned wife of a dedicated coalminer, of the 35 years of marriage my husband worked exclusively for Peabody Coal Co. 33 1/2 years. Not one day of these years did he work for Patriot Coal.

Over these years I have watched my youthful husbands health go down because of all the injuries he sustained during his employment while working at Peabody.

He had to retire in 2001 due to his worn out knees because of working on them for so many years they had to replace both of his knees. Other injuries he sustained were metal in his eyes, stitches on his head from rocks falling, loss of a finger, foot crushed with permanent nerve damage, hearing loss because of loud equipment.

As his wife it has been hard on me especially ^{on} him and our family.

In the beginning of my letter I stated he was a dedicated, hard worker. He has worked double shifts when they were short of workers. Charles never took off from work

unless it was necessary due from sickness or death in his family, Charlie was always on time very dependable. When asked to do a job he never failed to do it as some complained. He took his job and caring for his family very serious.

Due to their contract coal production today work weeks were required this meant maintenance on equipment was provided on Sundays. His time with me & our son was put on hold missing out on quality time with his family.

My husband along with 1000s of others are now at the age with permanent injuries are not looked at by employers as someone they would consider employable.

With my husband's age and health problems would prohibit purchasing health insurance.

This move orchestrated by Seaboard Coal Co and the recently formed Patriot Coal will be devastating to our finances and health care. In our opinion with 1000's of others this is a well thought out plan to avoid contractual agreements made

between Peabody Coal Co and Members
of the United Mine Workers.

As you examine records you will
see that only the U M W A Coal
Miners were put into this Pool.

It is very obvious that Patriot
Coal was set up to fail.

We believe in the justice system
and we also believe that when you
review the facts you will make a
just decision.

Respectfully
Starron Merritt wife
of Charles Merritt

U M W A Local 1802

Loham Merritt
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ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63102

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt - States
RE Case No 12-51502
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S Courthouse
111 South 10th St. 4th floor
St Louis, Mo

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