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JAN 17 2013

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

PAUL F. WITTY
204 ELMS ST. P O BOX 67
DELAWARE, OK 74027

JANUARY 15, 2013

TO THE BANKRUPTCY JUDGE:
THE HONORABLE KATHY A SURRATT-STATES

RE: CASE 12-51502

I AM SURE YOU HAVE RECEIVED NUMEROUS LETTERS CONCERNING THE PATRIOT COAL BANKRUPTCY. I AM A MEMBER OF LOCAL 0014 UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA UNION.

THIS IS NOT SOMETHING I USUALLY DO; HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT YOU REALIZE WHAT IS AT STAKE WITH THE RETIRED MINERS.

SEVERAL YEARS BACK PEABODY COAL HAD 2 MINES IN NORTH EAST OKLAHOMA. IT EMPLOYEED MANY MINERS. SEVERAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES DID BUSINESS WITH THEM.

WELL, THE POWERS THAT BE THOUGHT THEY KNEW BEST AND CLOSED THE MINES. THE COAL WAS NOT AS DEEP HERE AS IN WYOMING AND MONTANA. THEY HELD LEASE TO SEVERAL THOUSAND ACRES. A MAJORITY HAD NOT BEEN DUG. THEY SOLD THEM OR LET GO TO HARTLEY. I DO NOT KNOW THE DETAILS OF HOW HE AQUIRED IT. HARTLEY STARTED PHONIX COAL COPANY AND HAS BEEN DIGGING THOSE ACRES FOR YEARS. NON UNION. NOT AS MANY EMPLOYEES BUT HE HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY DIGGING AND MAKING MONEY. PEABODY COULD HAVE ALSO.

THEY CHOSE TO CLOSE DOWN. AND LEAVE THE MINERS OUT.

PEABODY AND ARCH COAL CREATED PATRIOT COAL AND SOMEHOW WAS ALLOWED TO PUT ALL THE RETIRES AND MINERS ON THE EAST DIVISION INTO IT. WELL ANYONE WITH GOOD SENSE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT THIS SMALLER COAL COMPANY WITH ALL THE RETIRES AND EAST DIVISION ACTIVE MINERS, COULD NOT MAKE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY THE HEALTH AND RETIREMENT YET THEY WERE ALLOWED TO DO IT.

NOW THE RETIRES ARE ABOUT TO PAY THE CONSEQUENSES. THIS IS NOT RIGHT. PEABODY PROMISED HEALTH COVERAGE FOR LIFE. YEAH, THEIR LIFE IN THE AREA. WHICH THEY TOOK CARE OF.

MOST OF THE RETIREES ARE LIVING ON SOCIAL SECURITY, WHICH IS NOT ENOUGH TO LIVE DECENTLY ON AND THEIR RETIREMENT.

WE RECEIVE \$320.00 IN RETIREMENT AND THE HEALTH COVERAGES. THE HEALTH COVERAGE IS MORE INPORTANT TO THE MINERS THAN THE RETIREMENT. AT LEAST IT IS TO US. I AM 77 YEARS OLD AND HAVE A HEART CONDIDTION, SINCE 2008. MY WIFE IS 73. THIS IS IMPORTANT TO US. WE THOUGHT,

AS DID ALL THE PEABODY EMPLOYEES WHO RETIRED THAT WE WOULD HAVE THE HEALTH CARE FOR LIFE. NOW IN OUR OLDER YEARS, WHEN WE NEED THE HEALTH CARE, WE ARE ABOUT TO LOOSE IT? THIS HARDLY SEEMS FAIR. WHAT OTHER INSURANCE COMPANY WILL TAKE US AND HOW CAN WE AFFORD THE PREMIUMS THEY WILL CHARGE US? PEABODY AND ARCH/ PATRIOT, SHOULD STAND BY THEIR PROMISES AND IT SEEMS IT IS UP TO THE COURTS TO MAKE THEM DO IT.

PLEASE CONSIDER US WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR DECISIONS IN THE PARTIOT BANKRUPCY CASE. WE ARE DEPENDING ON YOU.

THANKS FOR TAKING TIME TO READ MY LETTER.

Paul F Witty

Paul F. Witty
PO Box 67
Delaware, OK 74027-0067

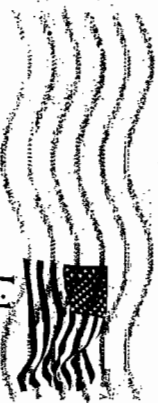
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2013 JAN 17 AM 10:59

CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
ST LOUIS, MISSOURI - MR

TULSA OK 741

JAN 17 2013 10:59 AM



THE HONORABLE KATHY A SURRATT-STATES
RE: CASE NO. 12-51502
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