



1/14/13  
489 Weibull Rd.  
452 Lyburn, MO.  
25632

The Honorable Kathy A. Swartz-States  
Re: Case No. 12-57502  
Thomas J. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor  
St. Louis, Mo 63102

Your Honor,

I have been informed that you  
will be hearing the bankruptcy case for  
Patriot Coal.

I do not presume you know  
nothing about coal mining or how it affects  
coal miners and their families. I  
would, however, like to tell you a little  
about my husband and my family and  
how it has affected us.

I was 18 and he was 24 when  
we married. He worked for a construction  
company. West Virginia weather is  
unpredictable. When it rained or snowed

work was halted. The job was low paying and carried no insurance.

After three years of marriage our first child was born. With no insurance, very low income and a child to care for, our lives changed. My husband took a job in the coal mines when our daughter was six months old.

We now had insurance, more money to live on and a more comfortable lifestyle.

I "hated" coal mining. Day in day out, year after year I watched my husband leave home for work, always wondering if he would come back.

He would come home so covered in coal dust he was hard to recognize.

I prepared his lunch every day and always put far too much for one meal. Always done with the thought, if he gets trapped under those mountains, he will have some extra food.

Down inside those mines, water seeped through cracks over his head.

Sounds like thunder was something he got used to. It was the mountain slowly sitting down. The air was full of a haze of coal dust and rock dust. Rock dust was scattered to try to keep the risk down from the equipment causing a fire.

Rats were a common site down in that hole, even an occasional skunk. There in this atmosphere he had his lunch.

Instead of looking forward to the beauty of the fall color changes in our mountains, it only added to my worries. Cold weather poses a higher risk of methane gas build up inside coal mines.

Miners have been overcome with methane gas and died. Explosions have happened and men have died.

My husband worked 8, 10 and 12 hour shifts inside those mines. A lot of those shifts were spent crawling on his knees.

No room for standing. Miles under those mountains, in the blackest dark man could know, except for the little lights on their miner hats and those on the mining equipment.

My husband worked on, year after year. Never knowing just how much I worried. Two more children blessed our lives. School and college for them was a priority so on he worked.

~~He worked when he was well, he~~  
worked when he wasn't able to work. When he retired he had been working six days a week, many of which were twelve hour shifts.

After 37 years of hard work he was eligible for retirement. In 2003 he retired from Arch Coal Company. He retired with the full understanding he would have a well earned pension and lifetime health care for me and himself.

Two to three years after he retired the mine that he worked for worked out and no longer existed. In 2009 Arch Coal sold out, or regrouped as Patriot Coal Company.

My husband never worked any at any time for Patriot Coal Co..

Contract after contract between Arch Coal Company and U.M.W.A., the promise that a separate fund was set aside for our pension and health care. This fund was separate and apart from other assets of Arch Coal Company.

We both are under medical care, our health has deteriorated through the years. There's no way we can afford the doctor bills and prescription costs on our own.

We, the "little people", who worked and made the coal barons rich, mean nothing to them.

This letter is my way of letting you see a touch of this side of decisions that you will make.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,  
Myrtle Prince  
a.k.a. Mrs. Albert Prince

Ms Albert Prince  
489 Webster Rd,  
452 Lybourn, AL 35602

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2013 JAN 17 AM 1:02

CLERK, U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MO

The Honorable Kathy A. Swatt - States  
Re: Case No. 12-51502  
Thomas J. Eapleton U.S. Courthouse  
111 South 10 Street, 4th Floor  
St. Louis, Mo. 63102



2013