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JAN 17 2013

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

I would like to start this letter by saying I'm sorry for asking you in your position to take your time to read this. First off, this should have never come about. I was raised in a Christian home, with family morals of treating others the same way you would like to be treated, also never steal, and to work and pay for the things you would want to have. My Grandfather, Dad, and older brother were underground coal miners. They are all gone now. After graduating from high school, I followed the same path as they did, in the deep mines. The coal dust was bad. I remembered that I would get scared a lot, but I would try to keep my fears inside, and not let anyone know how I felt. A lot of men that I worked with seem to have formed a special bond with one and other. In my years of working in underground coal mines, I saw a lot of my friends get hurt, and with some that were killed in the mines. I have dug and moved large rocks off their bodies. I remember many times that we would start our shift with different colored faces, but by quitting time we all looked the same. My last shift in the mine was December 8th 2000. I had at that time 25 years of service. Arch Coal was the company that I had worked for. They shut-down our mine, the strip mine, and prep. plant. A special union and company meeting was held at Arch Coal's main office. Men from Washington D.C. also showed up. The meeting started with the company stating, the deep mine I worked at was not going to be reopened, and that no future company underground mine was expected to open. Later in the meeting it was stated if we did not refuse a call back in 180 days, we with 20 years service or more could take our early out pension.

if desired, we were told by those at the meeting if we took our pensions we could work at any job we wanted, but we could not work for any other coal company anywhere, and be able to get a health card from Arch Coal, we were also told if we held to this rule, we would get our health card at the age of 55. So thinking of the health card my wife and I would need later in life, I would work low paying jobs long enough until I could get a better one. The years have passed and now at the age of 55, when I am supposed to get my health card from Arch Coal, I was told that now after working for years for Arch Coal, that I am considered a retiree of Patriot Coal. And they are seeking bankruptcy. I have never worked a single hour for Patriot Coal. I can not understand how this could happen in the United States. Please fix this

Thank you

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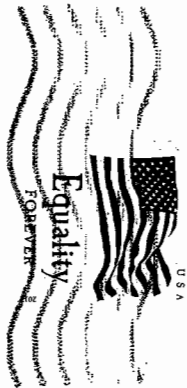
CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MR

*The Honorable Kathy A. Sarratt, States
Re: Case No. 12-51502*

*Thomas F. Engleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor*

St. Louis, MO 63102

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