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JAN 17 2013

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

JAN 14, 2013

YOUR HONOR,

I AM WRITING TO YOU ABOUT THE
UPCOMING BANKRUPTCY OF PATRIOT COAL. ITS
HARD TO UNDERSTAND HOW PEARBODY AND ARCH
CAN SHOW HUGE PROFITS AND STILL BE ABLE TO
FILE BANKRUPTCY. PATRIOT COAL, I BELIEVE,
WAS FORMED WITH THE INTENTION OF
SHEDDING THEIR LEGACY OBLIGATIONS WHICH
THEY SIGNED FOR IN THE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.

HAVING 27 YEARS IN THE COAL MINES AND
BEING 64 YRS OLD, THIS COMES AT A TOUGH
TIME FOR MY FAMILY + MYSELF. IT SEEMS
THE LITTLE GUY TAKES THE BRUNT OF
WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAKE EVEN MORE
PROFIT FOR THE BIG GUYS.

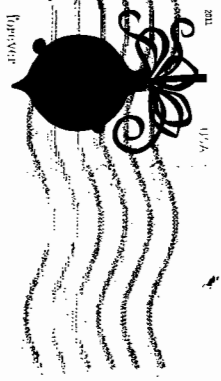
Sincerely,

Bernie

BERNARD J SMITH
5025 STATE ROUTE 127
PUNCKNEYVILLE, ILL
62274

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Pickneyville, Ill
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CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MO



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The Honorable Kathy A. Surrat-States
Re: Case No. 12-51502
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
ST. LOUIS, MO 63102

