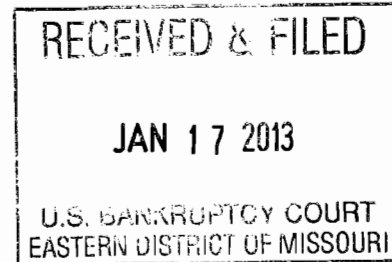


January 15, 2013

The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States
Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO 63102



Re: Case No. 12-51502

Dear Judge Surratt-States:

I am writing in regards to the above case concerning the bankruptcy hearing of Patriot Coal Company. My husband is a retiree of this company. My brother-in-law is a retiree of this company. My father-in-law is a disabled retiree of this company as well. Consequently, my family has more than a passing interest in the result of this case.

Allowing this company to renege on its responsibility and promise to provide retirement benefits and health care benefits to its retirees will not only cause an immense hardship for these people, it will also set an undesirable precedent for other companies in our country to follow. Companies should be required by law to honor their obligations to their workers.

These companies made vast amounts of money on the backs of these workers and should have used some of that money to fund the promises they made to them. It is the lower and middle class citizens that will be affected by this if it is allowed to stand. I believe they have had enough to deal with over the last several years of rising prices and decreased retirement funds.

Just the loss of the health benefits alone could very well affect the lives of these people irreversibly. People could actually die from the lack of health benefits. People who have little money cannot get the health care they need or deserve. My father-in-law, for instance, has many health problems. Many of these were actually caused from accidents he had while working in the mines owned by this company. It would be a travesty of justice if he were to lose the benefits that enable him to receive care for those injuries from the very company responsible for them.

I am respectfully asking you to put yourself in the place of these people when coming to a decision on this case. If your father or husband had given these companies the best years of their lives to make them wealthy, would you not think it only just that they continue to provide the benefits they promised them?

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Joetta S. Pritt
5105 Country Squire Lane
Charleston, West Virginia 25313

cc: The Honorable Joe Manchin, III
The Honorable Shelley Capito
The Honorable John Jay Rockefeller
The Honorable Nick Rahall
The Honorable David McKinley
The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin
The Honorable Jeffrey V. Kessler
The Honorable Rick Thompson
UMWA International Union

Richard & Joetta Pritt
5105 Country Squire Lane
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St. Louis MO 63102

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