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JAN 18 2013

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

January 16, 2013

Dear Honorable Kathy A. Surratt-States,

I am writing you to tell you how important my health and pension benefits are to me and my wife.

After spending 3 years in the Army and being honorably discharged in 1965 I went to work in the coal industry.

I worked for two coal companies and a pipeline before going to work for Amherst Coal Co. in 1974. This coal company was eventually purchased by Arch Coal Corp. My last employment was with Hobet Mining Corp. owned by Arch Coal and then absorbed into Patriot Coal Corp.

I want to tell you about my health condition and the health of my wife of 47 years.

I worked extremely hard for many, "30 years mining," years as a surface coal miner and the conditions were very dangerous at times.

In 1991, while employed at Hobet Mining, I suffered a heart attack and had Quadruple by-pass surgery. I returned to work and in 1995 I had a second heart-attack, I recovered from this and returned to work until I had to retire due to my medical condition in 1996.

I have had both carotid arteries operated on and I travel to Cleveland Clinic once a year for a doctor

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To monitor this.

I have an implanted defibrillator and see a doctor in Charleston, WV two times a year to monitor this.

I see a cardiologist in Beckley, WV, who runs test and checks on my heart twice a year. I am taking 6 medications each day for my heart.

I am doing very well now, but as you can see, these doctors and medicines are very important. Without the medical benefits, that were promised to us, I fear my health condition and that of my wife will deteriorate quickly.

My wife has P.A.D. and 6 years ago had part of her aorta artery replaced and she sees 2 doctors and is taking several medications for her heart and arteries. She is doing good now, but without our medical insurance she might have lost both legs. So I hope you can see the importance of our keeping these benefits.

In our contract negotiations we always were promised the health and pension benefits for life. These benefits were always put at the top of the list because we know how important they would be in our later life, wages were not as important even though our jobs are so strenuous and hazardous.

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Thank you for reading this letter and I sincerely hope you can consider this when making your decision on this bankruptcy.

Yours truly,

Horace L Meredith, Jr.

Patty Meredith

P.O. Box 236

Oceana, WV 24870

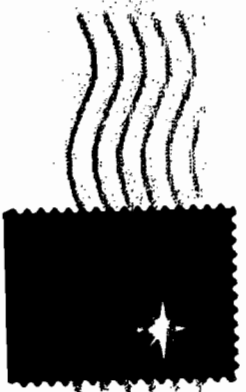
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CLERK, US BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MR

CHARLESTON WV 253  
16 JAN 2013 PM 2 L



The Honorable Kathy A. Surratt - States  
Re: Case No 12-51582

Thomas F. Eagleton US Courthouse  
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor  
St Louis, MO 63102

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