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U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

To: THE HONORABLE KATHY A. SURRATT - STATES

REF: PATRIOT COAL BANKRUPTCY - CASE NO 12-51502

I RETIRED FROM PERBODY COAL COMPANY AT THE AGE OF 58, IN JANUARY 1994, UNDER THE SO CALLED "COAL ACT." I WORKED AT THE COLONY BAY SURFACE MINE.

I RETIRED AT THIS EARLY AGE BECAUSE I MET ALL THE CRITERIA FOR EARLY RETIREMENT AND FULL LIFETIME MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR MY WIFE AND ME, AS SPELLED OUT IN THE "COAL ACT" AND THE UNION CONTRACT AS NEGOTIATED IN 1993. THIS WAS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPERTUNITY AND HAD TO BE (^{MSB} ~~FINALIZED~~ BY) FINALIZED BY SEPTEMBER 1994.

My health REMAINED good AND STABLE FOR YEARS THEREAFTER, SO THAT I COULD HAVE WORKED UNTIL 65 YEARS OF AGE. THIS CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT WOULD HAVE YIELDED APPROXIMATELY 315,000 IN WAGES, A \$225/MONTH INCREASE

IN PENSION FOR LIFE, AND A 25% MINIMUM INCREASE IN SOCIAL SECURITY /MONTH FOR LIFE.

I CHOSE EARLY RETIREMENT SOLELY FOR THE PROMISED AND CONTRACTED 100% LIFETIME MEDICAL BENEFITS, SUSPECTING I COULD NEVER AFFORD PRIVATE INSURANCE EVEN IF IT WERE AVAILABLE.

TIME HAS TAKEN ITS TOLL. IN THE PAST 12 YEARS MY WIFE HAS HAD FIVE MAJOR OPERATIONS, TWO OF WHICH WERE FOR CANCER. I HAVE HAD A HEAD INJURY, PNEUMONIA, AND AN IN-ACTIVE THYROID.

NO QUESTION ABOUT IT; TODAY, EVEN IF IT WERE AVAILABLE, MEDICAL INSURANCE WOULD NO LONGER BE AFFORDABLE BY MOST IF NOT ALL MINING RETIREES.

THERE ARE HUNDREDS, MAYBE THOUSANDS, OF MINERS IN THE EXACT CATEGORY AS I AM IN. THE MINIMUM AGE TODAY OF A MINER WHO RETIRED UNDER THESE PROVISIONS OF THE "COAL ACT" WOULD BE 75 YEARS OLD. REDUCING OR ELIMINATING THESE MEDICAL BENEFITS WOULD BE DEVASTATING; FINANCIALLY, EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY.

SO, I APPEAL TO YOU THAT IN THE BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS TO FOLLOW, THAT SOME ONE WILL BE HELD TO THESE COMMITMENTS MADE IN 1993.

Peabody is the Largest coal company in the world and was a party to the contract.

Peabody is the company that spun Patriot Coal.

Peabody is the company that shares the same corporate address and phone number as Patriot.

So, I suggest to you that Peabody be held responsible for payment of the medical benefits as contracted under the "Coal Act."

cc: U M W A
SENATOR JAY ROCKE PELLER
SENATOR JOE MANCHIN III
CONGRESSMAN NICK JOE RAHALL
FILE

Sincerely
Marshall S Buckland

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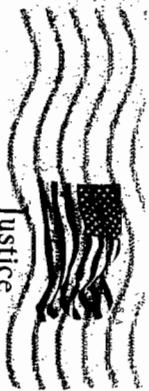
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K. US BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - MR

The Honorable Kathy A. Surrah - States
Re: Case No 12 51502
Thomas F Engleford U.S. Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, 4th Floor
St. Louis, MO. 63102

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