



January 15, 2013

The Honorable Kathy A. Suruatt-States

Re: Case No. 12-51502

I am writing this letter to express my frustration with Peabody Coal Co. and Patriot Coal Co. The bankruptcy proceeding of Patriot Coal Co. has threatened the health insurance that my wife, Brenda, and I rely on.

I worked for Peabody Coal Co. for 29 years. During that time I was a faithful employee and gave my best to the company. I retired in 2000 when Squaw Creek Mine (Southwestern Indiana) was closed. I was led to believe that we would be provided health insurance through the rest of our lives.

I just turned 65 and went on Medicare. However, I still need my miner's health care card for a supplement policy and my wife depends on this card for her health care as well. These were commitments made by Peabody Coal Co. to their employees and retirees and should not be taken lightly. The obvious has been done in order to try and take these benefits away from us. Now it is up to others to make decisions that will make sure what we worked for all our lives will not be taken away!

I encourage you to make a decision that is fair to all parties involved and to know that working and retired families depend on the promises that were made to them.

Thank you very much for your service in this matter.

William Steve Beard

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Steve Beard".

Brenda Gayle Beard

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Gayle Beard".

W.S. Beard

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

INDIANAPOLIS IN 460

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The Honorable Kathy A. Swannett - States

Re: Case No. 12-51502

Thomas F. Eagleston U.S. Courthouse

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